Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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TRANSPORT BOSSES BACK 40-MILE WESTERN ROUTE SCHEME

A CONTROVERSIAL new 40-mile motorway that will plough through countryside skirting the Black Country has been backed by transport bosses.

Midlands Connect is considering plans for the 'Western Strategic Route', which would connect the M5 junction 4a at Bromsgrove with junction 2 of the M54, near the i54 business park.

The transport body's new report says the route would offer 'the biggest benefit' for improving journey times and supporting economic growth. It says the route could reduce traffic on stretches of the M6 and M5 by one fifth, and could also connect up to 45,000 homes.

But South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson says the route would 'rip the heart out of the greenbelt'. The exact path has not yet been finalised, although it appears to mirror the Western Orbital scheme and the Wolverhampton Bypass, thrown out twice before. Initial plans suggest it is set to pass near Codsall, Codsall Wood, Perton, Pattingham, Wombourne, Dudley, Stourbridge and Kidderminster.

Solution

The report details 10 recommendations to tackle congestion including measures to make the best use of the 'underused' M6 Toll, new park and ride sites, and introducing ramp metering on the M5 Junction 1 (West Bromwich) and Junction 2 (Oldbury).

Midlands Connect director Maria Machancoses, said: "There is no 'silver bullet' solution to fixing congestion; the recommendations are a bold statement of intent as to what is required to make the Midlands' motorway network fit for purpose."

Jeremy Bloom, of Highways England, said: "We agree that a vision for the future will help us to develop an investment strategy that solves the problems."

Backing the scheme, Corin Crane, chief executive of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce (BCCC), said it was clear that in its current form the road network was letting businesses down.

"The Black Country is home to renowned manufacturers with world-class reputations," he said. "Our location at the heart of the UK should give business and industry an advantage and opportunities to thrive, not strangle them with an insufficient road network."

Julian Pottinger, director of Little Pot Travel, a haulage firm based in Oldbury, said: "Congestion is a massive issue in the Black Country, both getting in to and out of the area.

"For haulage companies like mine that drives up costs through wasted fuel, time and resources. Improvements like smart motorway upgrades seem to be working, but more needs to be done to make the motorways run more smoothly in the future.

"I'd be interested in seeing more detail on the idea of a Western Strategic Route linking the M5 and M6, but I'm glad that Midlands Connect is looking at shorter term, quick wins as well."

MP backs residents' battle against rail sleepers site

PROTESTERS UNITE ON FACTORY PLAN

ANGRY residents were out in force again to protest against plans by Network Rail to build a railway sleeper factory just yards from their homes.

Families near to the proposed factory at Bescot Sidings in the Friar Park area of Wednesbury, staged their protest waving posters and placards declaring their opposition to the scheme. Network Rail wants to build the factory which would produce 600,000 concrete sleepers a year.

But more than 4,000 residents have signed a petition against the scheme, and have told the rail company they 'will not back down'. They staged a previous protest outside Sandwell Council's offices back in March.

Now West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson has backed their cause. He said: "This is the most spirited community campaign I've seen since becoming an MP.

"It's not surprising local residents are furious at the arrogance of Network Rail and the proposal to put a factory at the end of their back gardens. Putting a concrete sleeper factory in the middle of a residential area with thousands of families with young children makes no sense. The effect on health and congestion in an already traffic heavy area would be intolerable. I urge Network Rail to think again."

Carol Wise, aged 73, lives in Westmore Way and her home backs onto the proposed site. She said her biggest concerns are the dangerous levels of pollution she believes the factory will bring. "There are seven schools within one mile of Bescot. These children have developing lungs and they are at their most vulnerable," she said.

Report by Megan Archer

"If this goes ahead, we are condemning our children to an adulthood of illness and an early death. When we first moved here we couldn't see the site or the motorway because of all these trees, they kept away the noise and pollution. But they've cut these down, it's horrendous now."

Councillor Simon Hackett of Sandwell Council said: "This is the biggest grassroots campaign I have ever seen as a councillor. It shows people are still angry."

A spokesperson for Network Rail said: "We have held two public information events to provide residents with the facts of our proposals, as well as details about how they can comment. The sleepers would be made in a sealed, filtered environment, creating no external dust, and we will put in place measures to reduce any potential visual or noise impacts."

Residents turn out in force to protest against the proposed concrete railway sleeper factory at Bescot

COUNCIL

Paying tribute to 'Mr Wednesbury'

BOOKS of condolence have opened in Wednesbury for Alderman Bill Archer, who passed away over the weekend.

The popular former councillor and Sandwell Mayor, known as 'Mr Wednesbury', died aged 91.

Former mayor

People can sign the book at Wednesbury Library, in Walsall Street, during library opening times – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday between 9.30am and 5.30pm,Thursday between 9.30am and 1.30pm and Saturday between 10am and 4pm.

There will also be a book at the Wednesbury Local office at Wednesbury Town Hall, in Holyhead Road, between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday. Alderman Archer was one of the longest serving Sandwell councillors after being an elected ward member for Wednesbury North between 1975 and 2011.

● Mayor – Page 3

POLICE

Boy, 8, shot in head with air rifle at park

A YOUNG boy was shot in the head with an air rifle while playing in a park in West Bromwich. The eight-year-old was with his family in Dartmouth Park, in Reform Street, when he was hit in the head.

He was taken to hospital and doctors believe his injuries were consistent with those caused by a rifle or pellet gun.

West Midlands Police say although his injuries were not life threatening, it could have been "very serious" for the young boy. The shooting happened at around 5pm on May 29.

Police spokeswoman Deb Edmonds said: "He was taken to hospital to be treated for his injuries, which doctors believe were consistent with that of a rifle or pellet gun injury."

Anyone with information is asked to call West Midlands Police on 101, quoting log number 1067 of May 29.

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SINGING FOR THEIR SUPPER

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Fugitive £53m tax cheat is behind bars

Hussain Asad Chohan

ONE of of the UK's most wanted tax fugitives who spent over 11 years on the run and owes more than £53 million, is finally behind bars.

Multi-millionaire Hussain Asad Chohan, formerly of Moseley, in Birmingham, fled the country while standing trial for his role in tobacco smuggling fraud in 2006.

Chohan was extradited from Canada by a team of specialist officers from HM Revenue and Customs' offender management and enforcement team, with the assistance of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Interpol.

He is now beginning a 12-year prison sentence and must repay more than £53 million.

The 49-year-old fled to Pakistan, Dubai and finally Canada, where he lived under a new identity.

He fled to Lahore in 2006 when he was on trial for smuggling 2.25 tonnes of illegal hand-rolling tobacco, worth £750,000 in evaded duty, into the UK in 2000.

He was convicted and sentenced to five years in prison in his absence.

Chohan was also linked to a £185m VAT fraud involving phoney companies set up to fraudulently reclaim VAT by faking the import and export of mobile phones and microchips.

Evidence was presented to a confiscation hearing in December 2006 of Chohan's involvement in the VAT fraud as well as the tobacco smuggling. The court ruled Chohan's lifestyle was funded by crime and ordered him to repay £28.6m within three months.

He did not pay up so will serve an extra seven years in prison.

His debt, plus interest totalling more than £24m, remains and increases by more than £6,000 a day until paid.

Waste plant scheme backed despite fears

A CONTROVERSIAL bid to build a huge energy facility overlooking the M5 looks set to be given the green light – despite a last-ditch attempt by MP Tom Watson to block it.

The plans were put on hold earlier this year after councillors demanded more information but the scheme has now been recommended for approval.

Labour deputy leader Mr Watson sent a letter of objection on behalf on his constituents complaining the building would be too large and could lead to traffic problems in the area.

A petition against the plant, described as an 'enormous monstrosity' by one resident, was signed by 450 people.

However, planning experts at Sandwell Council say they are satisfied with the scheme, paving the way for the development to go ahead. They said they were unconcerned by the scale of the building, stating it would be a 'landmark' for the area. The 10,000sq m energy recovery facility would be built at Giffards Recycling, off Kelvin Way, in West Bromwich, and convert 400,000 tons of waste into electricity a year.

A planning report ahead of a meeting on June 6, when a final decision will be made, said: "With regard to visual impact there is no doubt that the building and chimney would be visually imposing, particularly when viewed from the M5, canal and wider area." Experts also said increased traffic would not have a 'significant impact' on surrounding roads.

The report continued: "I can understand the depth of feeling expressed by residents.

"However, this type of facility in this industrial location has already been accepted by the local planning authority via adoption of the development plan policies and approval of earlier consents. "The design has been carefully considered to ensure that the building has a striking and aesthetically pleasing appearance."

Roaring trade for venue's dino days

Youngsters meet Pete the baby Tyrannosaurus Rex at the dinosaur day at Manor House Museum, in West Bromwich

VISITORS to a museum were transported more than 70 million years back in time when Dinosaurs took over a museum.

Manor House Museum in West Bromwich hosted a Dinosaur takeover family fun day on Saturday, as part of their Jurassic week.

More than 1,000 visitors flocked to the event during the course of the week, with youngsters being entertained by the animatronics baby T-Rex, Pete the Dinosaur, who prowled the grounds of the medieval manor house and posed for selfies.

"It was really, really good," said Abbey Butler, visitor services officer at the museum.

"All the staff worked really hard and they were really pleased. The visitors that came all really enjoyed it."

There was also the opportunity for kids to get involved in archaeological activities including fossil and bone hunting.

Abbey added: "The kids thought it was a real dinosaur so they were all really excited."

Effects of weather will hit costs of finishing Met

RAIN and snow could add millions of pounds to the cost of the stalled Midland Metropolitan Hospital, a health chief has warned.

Toby Lewis, chief executive of Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, has issued the stark assessment in a report to local councillors.

The warning comes only days after the West Midlands suffered its worst thunderstorms in recent years and as meteorologists warn of further storms to come. It was revealed last week the new hospital now looked likely to open in 2022 after the 2020 target date was described as 'impossible'.

The stalled £350 million project is already expected to cost an extra £125 million to complete. In a letter to Sandwell councillors Mr Lewis warned that the continued delays are adding millions to the final bill because part of the building is still open to the weather.

In a report to members of the Sandwell's health scrutiny committee he says the site is two thirds complete.

"However, it deteriorates in the elements and some parts of the building will require re-work," he said.

The trust's board has asked for a formal assessment of that cost in the next few weeks.

Police probe tram tragedy

POLICE are not treating the death of man who was hit by a Midland Metro tram in West Bromwich as suspicious.

The incident happened at Trinity Way station shortly before 5am on Saturday and trams did not run between West Bromwich and Birmingham for nine hours as a result.

A police cordon sealed off the Trinity Way stop throughout Saturday morning as officers examined the area and spoke to witnesses. The identity of the person who died is still not yet known.

A British Transport Police spokesperson said: "Shortly before 5am on 2 June, officers were called to Trinity Way tram stop following a report of a person being struck by a tram. Paramedics also attended. However, a man was sadly pronounced dead at the scene."

Cannabis plants seized by police

POLICE seized 20 cannabis plants from a house in West Bromwich. Officers carried out the warrant at the property in Rayford Drive shortly before 6am on Thursday May 31. A 39-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of cannabis cultivation. He has since been released under investigation.

Faster bus service set for Black Country

A NEW, faster bus service will be launched later this year under new plans by National Express West Midlands. The express service will be between Birmingham, City Hospital, Smethwick, Oldbury, Dudley and Wolverhampton.

A new direct service and regular links between Halesowen and Russells Hall Hospital, and between Merry Hill and Gornal Wood, are also expected. The new routes and changes are due to start from September 2.

Tom Stables, managing director for National Express West Midlands, said: "Our new Dudley network means faster and more frequent services for our Black Country customers. And it means we can bring our beautiful top-spec platinum bus services – with free wi-fi and USB charging – to Smethwick, Blackheath and Oldbury.

"Our network planners have worked hard to co-ordinate services together, to make it easier for customers making journeys that involve a change of bus. In October 2017, we launched a consultation process on our proposed changes.

"We received over 1,500 responses from the public. We have looked at all that feedback and used it to inform our route redesign."

National Express West Midlands' Sandwell and Dudley low fare zone will still apply – with £3 for a day ticket and £1.50 for a child day ticket. An adult weekly travelcard for inside the zone is £11 and a child's weekly travelcard costs £7.

The final draft of proposed changes can be found at nxbus.co.uk/dudley and comments are welcome.

Train company steams ahead

A NEW Birmingham-based company is firmly on track to operate express steam trains on the mainline in Britain.

Vintage Trains Community Benefit Society has surpassed the aim of raising a minimum £800,000 in subscriptions to form publicly owned train operating company Vintage Trains.

Share certificates are being sent out and funds have been made available to Vintage Trains, based at Tyseley, to secure its passenger charter licence from the Office of Rail and Road and establish its mobilisation plan.

Tyseley Locomotive Works has been authorised to begin a carriage restoration plan which will start with undertaking safety and maintenance checks. An open event will be held at Tyseley Locomotive Works over the weekend of June 30 and July 1 when Clun Castle and other locomotives will be in steam.

Designer village plans to face scrutiny

The playing fields, near Junction 2, M5

THE developers at the centre of a controversial scheme to build a £200 million shopping centre on playing fields have announced their plans will be available for public scrutiny.

Birmingham-based developer Jeremy Knight-Adams wants to build a designer outlet shopping centre on the Sandwell site close to Junction 2 of the M5 – which could lead to the creation of 2,000 jobs.

The scheme at Lion Farm, Oldbury, which was first proposed in 2012, is opposed by campaigners who claimed decisions have been made behind closed doors. Now the owner of the company, Mr Jeremy Knight-Adams, has given his own personal assurance that residents will be consulted about the plans.

He said: "Since I was last contacted in November my team has progressed on significant background work for this exciting opportunity that will deliver a step change for the people of Sandwell."

Campaigners opposing the scheme say it has been planned in 'secrecy' and will destroy almost 20 hectares of green space and cause traffic congestion. The Lion Farm site is home to 13 football fields and changing facilities.

The council has flatly denied protesters' claims and in a statement – following a protest by demonstrators last month – outlined the transparency of discussions.

It said the proposal had gone through a number of public council meetings including cabinet in January 2013 followed by full council in March 2013.

A planning application for the proposal is expected to be lodged with Sandwell council later this year.

Tributes flood in as ex-mayor Bill dies, 91

TRIBUTES have poured in this week for former Sandwell mayor and long-serving Wednesbury councillor Bill Archer, following his death at the age of 91.

Mr Archer, known as 'Mr Wednesbury', served as a Tory councillor for 36 years, and was Sandwell mayor between 2005 and 2006.

Tributes – Bill

He retired in 2010 aged 83. His family revealed he was seriously ill last week after battling prostate cancer for nearly 20 years, during which time he raised £15,000 to open a prostate unit in Sandwell Hospital.

His daughter, Wednesbury North Councillor Elaine Costigan, paid tribute to the 'amazing' councillor and father-of-four, who was also a grandfather and great-grandfather.

She said: "He was loved and well-respected by all. He was such a people person who did anything for anybody. People used to come into his shop and tell him their problems. Even when he retired he would get regular calls from people asking for help and he would always take their details and pass them on."

MP for West Bromwich East Tom Watson said: "Though a political opponent he was highly-respected by all in the Labour Party. I enjoyed his company and banter. I would often see him carrying a giant pile of letters that were destined for David Cameron, George Osborne and other ministers he felt needed his straight up Black Country advice. We have lost one of the great characters of the borough."

Mr Archer grew up in Portway Road, Wednesbury. He ran a clothes shop in Union Street for 17 years before he became a Conservative councillor in 1974 for what was Market Ward and later became Wednesbury North.

The funeral will be at 10am on June 23 at St Bartholomew's Church, Wednesbury.

Choir chips in with festival singing

Cradley Heath Male Voice Choir, at Joes Chip Shop as part of the Arts Festival, from left, John Pritch-

CUSTOMERS at two fish and chip shops were serenaded by a male voice choir as they waited for their orders.

Cradley Male Voice Choir sang a selection of songs including 'When I'm 64' and 'Daisy, Daisy' at Ivan's Fish and Chip Shop, in Reddal Hill Road and Joe's Place, in Cradley Road, last Saturday.

It was all part of this year's Cradley Heath Art Festival – running until Saturday. Lizzy Lee, secretary to Cradley Heath Creative which is organising the festival, said: "It was a really great event – people who were there really enjoyed it. I think the choir enjoyed it too as they have never done something like that before.

"We would love to do it again. It was quite funny to see people walking in to get their food and not expecting to see a choir performing!"

For more information about the Cradley Heath Art Festival including the festival programme, visit www.cradleyheathcreative.co.uk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tributes for dead man near railway

THE family of a 48-year-old man who was found dead near railway tracks have paid tribute to him. Dean Rhodes was found dead near Sutton Park on Sunday. His partner, Iris, has described him as a 'beautiful soul', who was 'inspiration to everyone he knew'.

She said: "Throughout his life he was an avid Birmingham City fan and he will be sorely missed by everyone. Especially by his partner, his daughter and grandson who are truly devastated by the awful news of his death."

Further enquiries are ongoing and officers from British Transport Police await the findings from a post mortem.

Store swings in to help charity

A FURNITURE store helped raise nearly £4,000 by sponsoring a charity golf day. Cookes Furniture in Erdington has backed Our Place Community Hub for an event at Sutton Coldfield Golf Club, which raised £3,700.

Golfers competed for a variety of prizes as they made their way around the course, and special guests included former Aston Villa captain Stylian Petrov and former Birmingham City goalkeeper, Maik Taylor. Our Place Community Hub offers help on issues such as mental health, wellbeing, caring and unemployment.

£30k fake goods seized by police

A HAUL of almost 1,800 counterfeit goods have been seized by police.

Football shirts and fake brand handbags were just some of the items recovered by officers in Birmingham.

Police uncovered the stash of illegal items from a property in Village Road, Witton, on Tuesday). Police estimated the goods to be worth around £30,000.

Among the haul were fake Gucci bags and clothes, Ralph Lauren and Fred PerryT-shirts and Louis Vuitton bags. A 45 year-old man was arrested on suspicion of fraud and has been released under investigation.

Tom on motorway for concert in Brum

MUSICIAN and radio presenter Tom Robinson will play in Birmingham on a new UK tour in October.

His band will be at The Glee Club in The Arcadian, Hurst Street, on October 10.

The Tom Robinson Band had a string of hit singles in the 1970s including 2-4-6-8 Motorway. His solo hits in the 1980s included War Baby.

Tom, aged 68, has a show on BBC Radio 6 Music.

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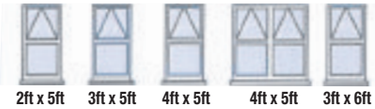
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COUNTY NEWS

Festival plea for memories of pub

VISITORS to the annual Wolverhampton Beer and Cider Festival, which starts today, Thursday, are being asked for memories of a city pub that is to be rebuilt at the Black Country Living Museum.

Museum staff will be at the 43rd annual festival to gather information on the Elephant and Castle, which originally stood on the corner of Stafford Street and Cannock Road. It was demolished in 2001 but is being resurrected as part of a new 1940s to 1960s area of the museum.

Anyone with memories of the pub can attend the Camra event at Newhampton Arts Centre from June 7-9.

Group signs up on social mobility bid

THE Black Country Chamber of Commerce has signed up to the Social Mobility Pledge initiative, demonstrating a commitment to accessing talent from all backgrounds.

The pledge asks employers to partner with a local school to help young people gain knowledge and experience of the workplace, provide work experience and apprenticeships and adopt open recruitment practices

Chamber chief, Corin Crane, said: "We are encouraging businesses to become a Social Mobility Pledge accredited employer. People should be granted opportunities based on talent and hard work."

It's a dog's life for spot on sofa

BESOTTED pet owners admit their dog is 'part of the family' with almost 50 per cent of West Midland pooches having their own spot on the sofa.

More than 60 per cent of dog owners in the regions allow their pooch to sleep on their bed while more than 20 per cent have turned down nights with friends because they can't bear to leave their dog at home alone.

Over half say hello to their dog first after getting home at the end of the day, before greeting their partner.

Think Bike message riding high again

ROAD users are being urged to Think Bike during National Motorcycle Week of Action and have been warned that police plan to carry out enforcement action during the summer months.

Reducing motorcycle-related collisions continues to be a priority for West Mercia Police, after, over the past three years, 46 people were killed and 557 badly hurt in incidents involving motorcycles in the force area.

Church marks 125th year with mass

St Philip's seen in the late 20th century

A PARISH church in Smethwick will be celebrating its 125th year on Sunday. A celebration mass is taking place at noon at St Philip Neri Catholic Church, on Messenger Road.

It is hoped as many past parishioners, pupils and staff from the school, as well as people who were baptised or married at the church, will attend.

Archbishop Bernard Longley and at least one former parish priest, Father John O'Brien will be in attendance

St Philip's Catholic Primary School will be involved in the liturgy and a special setting of the Psalm has been composed for the occasion.

The church boasts a string of connections with Blessed (Cardinal) John Henry Newman and the hymn writer Edward Caswall, and at this special Mass the congregation will sing 'Praise to the Holiest in the Height' written by Newman. A celebration lunch follows Mass, and there will be a display of photos and archives for all to see.

There is still time to contribute to the display. For more information, or if you have any photos, documents or memories connected with the church, please visit the website http://www.stphilipsparish.co.uk call 0121 558 1065 or email stphilipsmethwick@gmail.co.uk

Quarter of children are clinically obese

Report by Alex Ross

SANDWELL and Wolverhampton are among the worst eight boroughs in the country for fat children, with more than a quarter of 11-year-old's obese.

Data for Year 6 children in more than 350 boroughs has been released by the National Child Measurement programme.

It shows in Sandwell 26.6 per cent of kids are obese, while in Wolverhampton the figure is 26.4 per cent. The areas are ranked sixth and seventh respectively.

Walsall came 17th, with 25.3 per cent obese, and Dudley 36th, with 24 per cent. South Staffordshire Council came 83rd with 21 per cent, Cannock Chase 85th with 22 per cent and Stafford was 226th with 17 per cent.

Takeaways

Sandwell cabinet member of health, Elaine Costigan, said: "We as a council face a real challenge to try to encourage people to be healthier.

"We have heavily invested in our leisure centres and all children swim for free during school holidays. In 2016 we banned new hot food takeaways being opened within 400 metres of any Sandwell school.

"We work with local schools and early years providers to promote physical activity programmes such as Sandwell Active Schools to help children do their recommended 60 minutes of physical activity every day.

"We are committed to reducing sugar in school meals and we are working with companies providing these to cut down on the amount of sugar by 20 per cent in 2020.

"These figures are concerning and we won't shy away from the hard work that needs to be done by us and our partners."

West Brom workers help women's refuge

Daljit Kaur Bains from Roshni, back centre, with volunteers from the West Brom at the play area

THE West Bromwich building society has given valuable support to a women's refuge in Birmingham.

The West Brom made a £2,000 donation to enable staff at Roshni to purchase equipment for a new children's play area in its garden.

In addition, a team of eight volunteers also spent time at the refuge, preparing the garden and painting some of the rooms inside.

Roshni, which was formed in 1979, provides support and refuge to South Asian women and their children now living in the UK who have suffered from, and are fleeing, domestic violence, honour-based crimes and forced marriage.

Surwat Sohail, chief executive of Roshni, said: "The West Brom have been fantastic supporters of ours over a number of years and this is another wonderful gesture.

"It was a lovely atmosphere when the volunteering team came to the refuge and the work the West Brom were involved with inspired many of the women staying at Roshni to paint their rooms as well.

"As for the play area, most of the women we support arrive with their children who have experienced a great deal of distress and upheaval at a very early stage in their lives, so we are excited to provide a stimulating setting in which they can play."

Inspector's backing on expansion for mosque

EXPANSION plans at a Tipton mosque – the target of bomb attack by a white supremacist – can now go ahead after winning the backing of a planning inspector.

The Central Jamia Mosque on Binfield Street won an appeal to build a double storey side extension after Sandwell councillors rejected an application in December last year.

The plans will create a female and children's community hall with toilets on the ground floor, and a male community area on the first floor along with offices and classrooms.

Councillors originally rejected the scheme after residents' concerns about the loss of on site parking and fears of increased parking in surrounding streets.

The inspector said: "Whilst high levels of on-street parking may inconvenience local residents, who may not be able to park close to their properties, there is no substantive evidence that it would represent a severe risk to highway safety."

He went onto recommend a condition restricting the simultaneous use of the prayer room and the community hall. The costs of the appeal were awarded to the mosque whose legal fees will now be paid by Sandwell Council.

The mosque hit the headlines in July 2013 when it it was targeted by white supremacist Pavlo Lapshyn who planted a bomb timed to explode when worshippers were at Friday prayers during Ramadan.

No-one was injured when the nail bomb was detonated because the regular prayer meeting had been set back to 2pm.

Himley place to be for under-5s

YOUNGSTERS can enjoy a special day out at Himley Hall and Park for the annual under-five's day later this month.

The popular Dudley Council event, which features activities and entertainment for children under the age of five, takes place on Friday, June 29.

Himley Hall and Park's own beach – complete with a giant sandpit, buckets and spades – and Punch and Judy shows will be on offer throughout.

The event will run between 10am and 3pm. Adult tickets start at £5 and children's at £3.50. Car parking is free. Tickets can be booked by visiting www.himleyhallandpark.co.uk/under-5s.

To apply for a stall, email jacki.wynn@dudleygov.uk for a booking form, or call 01384 817822.

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University school gets 'good' rating from Ofsted

THE University of Birmingham School has been awarded a 'good' rating in its first official inspection from Ofsted, which took place in April 2018.

The School, which opened in September 2015 as the only University Secondary Training School in the country, was commended by Ofsted for its character education programme, its inclusive approach, and close partnership with the University of Birmingham.

Principal Mike Roden said: "Having opened just three years ago, it is a real achievement for the school to receive a 'Good' outcome in all categories.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, governors, our wonderful pupils and students and our parents and carers, for all the contributions that have been made to secure this validation of our distinctive educational programme."

In its report, Ofsted highlighted the School's bespoke 'character education' programme, supported by the Jubilee Centre of Character and Virtues at the University of Birmingham.

The inspectors reported that 'the development of a 'character education' programme has rightly received national and international acclaim. Leaders promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and British values very well through the curriculum.

Hospital plan hits stumbling block

A PROPOSAL for a new hospital and research facility in Birmingham has hit a stumbling block after developers failed to gain planning permission.

Calthorpe Estates had anticipated Birmingham City Council would give the green light to the eight-storey building at the former BBC Pebble Mill studios site in Edgbaston but the authority's planning committee has put the brakes on the scheme.

The council had previously granted permission for a 54,000 sq ft building on the plot, but Calthorpe's latest scheme is for one almost twice the size – at 97,000 sq ft.

Councillor Gareth Moore, on the committee, was concerned that the 167 parking spaces proposed may not be enough.

Purl of an idea

NATTY Knitters is looking for new members. The club meets at Haden Hill House in Cradley Heath every fortnight on Wednesday from 10.30am to 12.30pm and anyone is welcome, with a £2 entry fee.

Ozz-picious award for Sabbath singer

Ozzy, set to be a Golden God

BLACK Sabbath frontman Ozzy Osbourne will receive the equivalent of a lifetime achievement gong at Metal Hammer's Golden God Awards after his band were awarded the same honour at last year's event.

Birmingham-born Ozzy, aged 69, will be recognised for his almost 50-year career, including his pioneering work in the Birmingham metal band Black Sabbath and his long solo career.

Speaking after it was announced he would be recognised with this year's prize Ozzy said: "What an immense honour it is to be getting a second Golden God Award after Sabbath picked one up last year.

"The fans who have supported me and this music mean everything to me, which is why getting this award is so special. I will see you all down there."

The singer, who is often known as The Prince of Darkness, founded Black Sabbath in 1969 alongside guitarist Tony Iommi, bassist Geezer Butler and drummer Bill Ward before leaving in 1978. The group is widely credited with inventing and popularising the heavy mental genre of music.

Ozzy reunited with Iommi and Butler for an album in 2013 which was called 13. In February last year the trio brought the curtain down on the band's career with the final show of a farewell tour in their home city. As a solo artist Ozzy has released 11 albums with his debut Blizzard Of Ozz arriving in 1980. It featured two of his most revered songs Crazy Train and Mr Crowley.

The ceremony will be held at London's O2 Arena on June 11.

Zero tolerance move on workers being assaulted

A TOUGH new zero tolerance policy is being launched by Sandwell Council and its waste partner Serco in a bid to reduce the increasing number of employees being verbally or physically assaulted by members of the public.

It follows news that there were 35 reported incidents in a 14-month period when binmen, street cleansing employees and operatives working at the tip were verbally or physically assaulted by members of the public.

Incidents range from verbal abuse when collection vehicles are temporarily blocking the road while employees empty bins to actual physical abuse with items being thrown at crew members and workers being knocked down by drivers while working on the footpath.

One incident resulted in a prosecution for dangerous driving after a motorist drove into an operative who was at the rear of a refuse vehicle emptying a bin.

Aggression

Now the waste partnership and union representatives have warned that it will not hesitate to immediately report to the police any incidence of violence and aggression to employees.

The police are increasingly taking these sorts of cases seriously and will prosecute where there is the evidence and public interest to do so. Due to the increasing number of incidents, partners have come together including Sandwell Council, Serco and the unions GMB, Unison and Unite to agree a charter that outlines what behaviours are unacceptable and all employees will be trained to manage violence and aggression they experience in the workplace.

Councillor David Hosell, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for highways and environment, said: "The employees deliver a very valuable service to residents in the borough. The level of abuse they endure from members of the public is not acceptable and I urge the residents who do this to reconsider their behaviour."

Taskforce launches to tackle issues

Councillors Elaine Costigan and Steve Eling with some of the Environmental Protection Officers

A NEW taskforce tackling everything from dog fouling and litter to untaxed vehicles and anti-social behaviour has been launched in Sandwell.

The council's new team of Environmental Protection Officers (EPOs) are now on the streets tackling "the issues that matter to our residents". The council has invested £200,000 in forming the 18-strong team, who are armed with stab vests and bodycams to record evidence.

The team will work seven days a week, 8am until 10pm, in communities all over Sandwell's six towns. The new EPOs will complement the work of the council's environmental enforcement team, who are tasked with tracing and fining fly-tippers.

The 16 officers and two supervisors will also be tackling street-drinking, unauthorised encampments and off-road bikes.

And they have the powers to issue fixed penalties to anyone caught throwing litter out of vehicles.

The team will be issuing fixed penalties ranging from £30 to £200 depending on the offence.

Leader of Sandwell Council, Councillor Steve Eling said: "People are fed up with a small minority causing problems like fly-tipping and dropping litter or not paying tax on vehicles, and Sandwell residents keep telling us they want more enforcement to tackle these issues."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Health chiefs in measles warning

SCHOOLS and festivals are 'hotspots' for the spread of measles, health chiefs have warned. There have been at least 78 confirmed cases of the 'highly infectious viral illness' across the West Midlands since January.

Families are now being urged to ensure they have had two doses of the measles, mumps and rubella vaccination.

Public Health England tweeted: "Measles is spreading around the West Midlands and public places, including schools and festivals, are a hotspot for them to spread. To protect you and your loved ones make sure you have had your two MMR vaccines."

Cannabis house had 200 plants

MORE than 200 cannabis plants were found in a drugs factory created inside a terraced house. Police said the weight of soil used to grow the illegal drug had left the house 'unsafe' with ceilings at risk of 'falling down'.

West Midlands Police's cannabis disposal team made the find in a house, in Smethwick.

Large pipework, electrical wiring and fans were discovered throughout the house in Dibble Road. Officers called the bid to investigate the find, worth thousands of pounds, a 'high risk operation'. No arrests have been made at this stage and investigations are ongoing.

Gurdwara centre plan not backed

A PLAN to build a community centre at a gurdwara is set to be thrown out due to concerns about a lack of parking.

Leaders at the Gurdwara Guru Hargobind Sahib on Upper Chapel Street, Tividale, wanted to add the new centre on part of the car park to operate seven days a week. However, highways bosses have moved to block the plan over concerns it would likely lead to an increase in on-street parking.

Residents have presented a 62-signature petition against the plans.

Hospitality career boost for youngsters

PUPILS interested in pursuing a career in the hospitality industry visited an interactive taster day. Year 9 and 10 students from Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy in Tividale took part, with Aimhigher West Midlands at University College Birmingham.

Marie McMahon, executive principal, said: "I am so pleased our students who are interested in careers in the hospitality trade were able to learn from the very best."

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Compost heap not my idea of fine dining

JAPANESE knotweed, what do you do about it? Or dandelions, or nettles? Now I thought the answer was pretty obvious. Nuke it with the most powerful weedkiller you can find.

But, according to television gardener Alys Fowler, that is completely wrong. Not only does the former Gardener's World presenter have a rather strange name, but it seems she also has a rather strange idea about what to do about garden weeds. Last week she told the Hay Literary Festival that instead of killing them, we should try eating them.

Yum, yum. Now look, I'm the first to admit to being a dreadful gardener. Every year, I spend a fortune on plants that wilt after a couple of weeks. Only last month I replied to an advert in a national newspaper featuring pictures of glorious blooms, offering "two beautiful hanging baskets" for £20. And then they arrived - just two plastic bowls and a bit of chain. No flowers like in the pictures, just two plastic bowls for 20 quid. So I'm gullible as well.

But while I know nothing about gardening – or gastronomy for that matter – it still seems difficult to comprehend that tucking into the compost heap represents the future of fine dining.

Nevertheless, Richard Bainbridge, one of those avant-garde chefs loved by the food critics in The Guardian, says he spent Wednesday last week rummaging around a car park in Norwich looking for ingredients. If that's your thing, you will not only find knotweed on his menu, but a bit of chickweed garnish too.

"I think it is lovely, it is like a light version of watercress," he says.

Simon Rogan, with two Michelin stars to his name, is another fan, although he prefers nettles and dock leaves. Nice.

Then there is Tiffany Francis, who has gone so far as to write a recipe book on the subject. She just loves dandelions, using the heads to make biscuits and the leaves as salad.

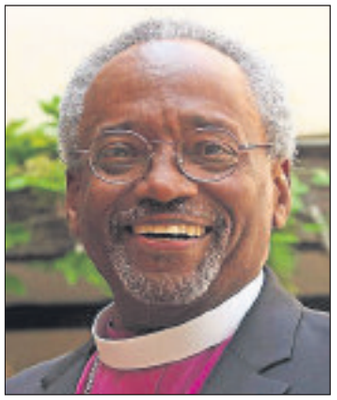
Now I probably ought to tread carefully, because someone somewhere has probably decided that disparaging garden weeds is the next big 'hate crime'. But while this sort of thing might go down a storm in the trendier parts of London, can you really see nettles from a car park in West Bromwich catching on around here?

A few years ago, food critic Jay Rayner said there was nowhere good to eat out in the Black Country, because the people didn't want to pay for good food.

Well, no offence Jay, but I think I'll stick with the steak.

Showbiz names? Didn't recognise one of them!

Tony Blair – Iraq casts a shadow that will last the rest of his life



Bishop Curry's 14-minute wedding sermon – attention span was not the issue

Victoria Beckham – was said to be 'mortified' after confusing actresses

Reality is that they are not stars at all

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

VICTORIA Beckham was said to be "mortified" after mistaking Thandie Newton for Zoe Saldana. I sympathise. As I admitted recently, in the blood-and-guts epic The Revenant, I had great difficulty telling Leonardo DiCaprio from the grizzly bear. The Misses Newton and Saldana? I'm sorry, I haven't a clue. The problem is that there are simply so many celebrities today. I've just put down a newspaper supplement with a double-page spread of alleged showbiz stars. Didn't recognise a single one of them. It seems those whose names are preceded by "reality star" are, in reality, not stars at all.

IN October last year I wrote: "Harvey Weinstein is . . . deliciously easy to hate. But as this affair deepens and the Hollywood swamp is drained, don't be surprised if some of your favourite stars turn out to be wading in the ooze." But I never imagined Morgan Freeman would be in the frame and begging forgiveness.

A READER suggests I might have gained more from Bishop Curry's 14-minute sermon at the Royal Wedding if I had a greater attention span. Believe me, attention is not the issue. It's all a question of whether or not you are a believer. If you believe there is a supernatural deity somewhere Up There who created the universe, loves every one of us and has prepared a place of eternal bliss in the afterlife, then sermons such as this must be wonderfully uplifting and faith-affirming. If, on the other hand, you believe there is no God, and that religion is a system designed to keep people in their place with the promise that if this life is awful, things will be great when they're dead, then you probably regard all God-botherers as at best deluded and at worst dangerous. I have heard many holy men banging on about the Love of God and the joys of Heaven but I've yet to meet one who wants to go there.

IF nothing else, the arrival of the new Duchess of Sussex is a reminder that we're not all known by our first names. Many of us, for reasons of family tradition, personal choice or the demands of showbiz, are known by a middle name. Thus, the Duchess is Rachel Meghan Markle in much the way that the US megastar is William Bradley Pitt, the former Beatle is James Paul McCartney and the "Rivers of Blood" MP was John Enoch Powell.

A USEFUL thing about being known by your middle name is that you can use your first name on official documents. And that means that when an envelope arrives addressed to William Pitt or James McCartney, you know it's not from a friend.

YOU may get a glow of satisfaction about Russian oligarchs being called to account by UK authorities and made to explain how and when they acquired their riches. But remember this. A quarter of all the income tax paid in Britain is paid by the richest one per cent of income-tax payers. While a moral crusade is heart-warming, dirty money is still money and it may be that the best way to fund the NHS is to look the other way.

ACCORDING to the Sunday Times, rising ocean temperatures may soon make wetsuits obsolete in the seas around Britain. Excellent news. Unless you have a perfect body, the black-rubber wetsuit is the most unkind and unforgiving item of clothing. I saw a woman on Loch Lomond mounting her jetski. She was a large lass, clad in a wetsuit, straddling the saddle with her ample bum in the air and a jet of water shooting up between her legs. It was unforgettable, and not in a good way, and yet from her satisfied smile, she obviously thought she looked like a Bond girl.

I GAVE an example recently of the casual effing and blinding directed at Tony Blair in online debates over everything from Syria to Brussels. I recall writing, after the 1997 General Election, that impossible as it seemed, this young and popular new Prime Minister would one day be the most hated man in England. But who could have imagined that 11 years after he resigned as PM, Blair would still be so energetically despised by so many who once adored him? Blair is desperate for what politicians calls 'legacy' but Iraq casts a shadow that will last the rest of his life.

TALKING POINT

No longer saddled with rude drivers

FOLLOWING a forced leave of absence from my bicycle saddle (basically through laziness!) I am now fully back roaming the Black Country on two wheels – at least, to my place of work anyway.

And, I have to say, apart from a couple of predictable clashes with drivers of white vans who really do think the rules of the road are basically Fast & Furious 1 to 8, things have definitely improved.

In the two years or so I have been off the road, pedal-power wise at least, there is a noticeably more relaxed attitude to me in my bright yellow top, gliding past gathered cars in the bike lanes leading up to traffic lights.

I have found in the past that however courteous one driver might be to allow me access across a junction, then there will be one, or several, hotheads much less courteous in the queue behind them, who almost aim their vehicle at my rusty steed, with the accompanying high revs and hand gesticulations making cycling a somewhat daunting prospect.

Not so now though. After a couple of weeks back in the saddle, I am pleased to report there is usually space allowed to my right-hand side – apart from some aforementioned idiots in vans. Also there is no pressure to get out of the way with an occasional encroaching front bumper belonging to frustrated drivers' cars behind, and generally, it's all pretty laid back.

Of course, and it's oft been said, sensible sharing of the public highway works both ways, and when Lycra-clad racing types ignore everything else on the road to make mad dashes around and in front of the more cumbersome engine-powered vehicles, it is no surprise there are tensions.

The only thing I have found disappointing is previously when I was to-ing and fro-ing as a self-propelled commuter, I estimated that my journey, which is more or less a directly straight route, was about six miles. However, with the advance of the internet, I managed to find a site which worked out distances of travelled routes, including cycling. I worked it out as a measly four miles, and yet for me, it feels like a marathon!

I regularly have to suffer the ignominy of being overtaken by older, heavier cyclists who leave me in their dusty tracks. I have come to realise that my bike simply can't go as fast as other bikes...it's probably something to do with the gears/chain/tyres etc – and nothing to do with the rider of course!

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Usual bunkum about Brexit from ex-pat

PAUL Kelly, an apparent ex-pat, writes the usual bunkum about Brexit, accusing Theresa May and her government of a lack of action. This is exactly the position taken by all those wishing to remain who repudiate the result of the vote and totally refuse to accept that we are leaving this costly union.

I have no doubt that she and her ministers know exactly what we want from any agreement. The major problem is not lack of resolve, but the sustained campaign and often subtle attempts of those who wish to keep the status quo are trying their best to sabotage any deal whatsoever. You do not play poker with cards turned outward, similarly, you do not declare your aims prior to negotiation.

All these reports echo the doom and gloom narrative prior to the vote and yet we have the lowest unemployment and inflation figures at the present time, and the stock market is at its highest point for years.

The so-called problem of the Irish border could be resolved overnight by joining as one union.

Since Mr Kelly lives in Dublin does he not think it strange that the Royalists of Northern Ireland wish to retain an open border, and yet will soon be marching in orange to declare their hatred of Eire?

I would suggest that a better result will be attained if the opponents of Brexit get on their skates, skateboards and surfboards and enjoy a quiet reflective holiday leaving Mrs May and her team to hopefully prevail on the EU, who no doubt wish to safeguard their vast imports into the UK, to agree a fair resolution.

JOHN CHAMBERLAIN
Great Barr

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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ipso. For press freedom with responsibility

Finnish way on housing is irrelevant

WITH reference to your recent published letter on the visit to Finland by our mayor Andy Street, and on his 'revelations' to the Finnish problem of housing the homeless, Finland has a population of approx 5.5 million with an estimated number of 7,000 homeless.

The 'queue jumping' solution of Finland would be a nightmare scenario in Britain, with Birmingham alone having more than 7,000 on its housing list and that's after it cooked the books by scrapping the old system and bringing in a new points system, so can you imagine it already it's hard not to be confronted on any high street in Birmingham by a beggar with a dog.

Finland is a country with problems, its liberal political climate has now become charged with anger as demand after demand from its immigrant population is now reaching breaking point.

MR S T VAUGHAN
Yardley Wood

Admirable efforts from police force

FOR years our police force have done a wonderful job in this country, but, it seems, never more so than now as they often have to deal with the worst kind of human being at times.

I am pleased to hear Home Secretary Sajid Javid MP has spoken out about the abuse officers have to endure, and was a witness to what our police go through on a day-to-day basis.

I really hope that now our police get the support and respect they should have, be they black or white, and also other politicians, etc, must get in touch with the 21st century and step up. We want actions now, not words to get our country back to the wonderful country it once was.

JUDITH FISHER
Tividale

Leaders are getting it wrong

WATCHING the TV programme Ambulance has reinforced my belief that successive governments have got things wrong.

We have an ageing and increasing population yet we have been hellbent on building super hospitals whilst closing many smaller hospitals down.

We are continually told of ambulances having to wait because A&E departments cannot cope. We, the public are always demanding more money to be spent on the NHS, Police and the Armed Forces yet at the same time seeking the reduction in general taxation. We cannot have it both ways.

Who expects any political party to be honest enough to say that if we are elected, we will immediately raise taxes.

The money has to come from somewhere to pay for all the things we want. More needs to be done in order to stop both tax evasion and tax avoidance.

LEN HALES
Cradley Heath

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Council chiefs crack down on Cassidy family of travellers

SANDWELL Council is seeking to extend an injunction banning a traveller family from setting up unauthorised encampments anywhere in Sandwell.

Solicitors for the council were, on Tuesday, due to go back to court to extend to the injunction against the Cassidy family. Fourteen members of the family were named in the order last year after a court heard how they had caused a range of anti-social behaviour incidents.

These included assaults, large scale disorder, threats, intimidation, criminal damage and an extreme amount of fly-tipping.

The Cassidys, along with up to 40 caravans and vehicles, set up camp on Sandwell Council and privately-owned sites more than 25 times between June 2014 and August 2016.

The injunction was obtained in June 2017 and served on John Cassidy, the head of the family, last August when he was located in Warwickshire.

It bans John Cassidy from the whole of Sandwell, while the rest of the family are prohibited from setting up unauthorised encampments, causing damage to barriers and fly-tipping anywhere in Sandwell until August 2018. The council will be seeking the extension of the injunction for as long as possible.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for regeneration and investment Councillor Paul Moore said: "We've seen the number of unauthorised encampments we deal with fall significantly in the past year.

"We have also increased security at dozens of parks and open spaces and created a transit site where travelling groups can be ordered to move to by the police. Groups who move there must pay rent and a deposit for each caravan – and failure to move there leads to them being banned from Sandwell."

Groups join forces to tackle scams

CITIZENS Advice and Trading Standards are joining forces to give people the knowledge to spot scams.

The two organisations will be providing information to residents in Sandwell as part of Scams Awareness Month, a national campaign encouraging people to report and talk about any problems.

Scammers can strike at any time, from cold-calling people with a fake investment opportunity to posting online adverts for products which don't exist.

Throughout June officers will be urging people to report scams so the authorities can chase down fraudsters. Reporting being scammed also means that people can receive advice on how to try and get their money back or any other steps they should take to protect themselves.

Councillor Elaine Costigan said: "Knowing how to spot a scam is the best line of defence against being scammed.

"While scammers will always use tactics like cut-price deals and pressure selling to draw people in, there are more ways for scammers to reach people with different bogus offers – from texts and emails to social media and online adverts."

Anyone has been scammed or knows someone who has, can contact officers on 03454 04 05 06.

Johnny Marr to play Birmingham venue

JOHNNY Marr will play a gig for fans in Birmingham this autumn.

The former Smiths guitarist and singer/songwriter is best known for songs such as How Soon Is Now, Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now, and This Charming Man. The 54-year-old Mancunian will play the O2 Institute in Digbeth on November 5 as part of his Call The Comet Tour.

Cancer service gave my life back

Ameena Mufihi, right, with Relate counsellor Pauline Anderson, left

A MOTHER is urging other people living with and recovering from cancer in the Black Country to access local counselling services available.

Ameena Mufihi, from Smethwick, was diagnosed with lobular breast cancer in May 2017. The 47-year-old said she hit 'rock bottom' following her diagnosis but the Relate Macmillan Counselling Service helped her deal with her situation better.

In partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, the Relate Macmillan Counselling Service offers free relationship counselling to anyone affected by or living with cancer in the Black Country and Birmingham.

The service helps with issues such as how to talk to friends and family about what is happening to you, changes and problems with relations because of cancer, and the difficulties talking to children, parents or other relatives. Ameena said: "Over Christmas time, I realised I had hit rock bottom. I hated myself, especially the way I looked and I was distancing myself from my other half.

"I was in a very bad place. I think without the Relate Macmillan Counselling Service, I would have had a total breakdown. I owe the service so much."

For more information on the service, call 0121 6431 638, or visit relate birmingham.co.uk/our-services.

Beauty salon raises funds for hospice

GENEROUS staff at a beauty salon have been digging deep to support a hospice which helps patients in the Black Country and Birmingham.

The Beauty As salon in Longbridge has so far generated £1,400 thanks to fundraising activities including a raffle.

Owner Sally Parsons said: "My nan was diagnosed with terminal cancer two years ago and it was always her wish that when the time came she would be admitted to Birmingham St Mary's. Fortunately, we were able to make this happen and my nan sadly passed away on April 23."

The big-hearted team have been running a raffle, as well as asking for contributions from their customers.

Lucy Watkins, head of fundraising said: "It costs £8 million a year to run our vital services – over half of which need to come from voluntary donations."

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CCTV released as police hunt group of attackers

The CCTV images released by police of the suspects

Top, armed police and below, the targeted car

CCTV pictures have been released of four men believed to have been involved in a shocking attack outside a Sandwell petrol station.

Police are yet to make any arrests after the incident in Tipton, where a man was stabbed and a car had its windows smashed by a gang armed with baseball bats.

A 31-year-old man was left with a knife injury to his leg after the attack outside the Texaco petrol station and Morrisons supermarket on May 23.

The drama started when a car attempted to mow the man down on Park Lane East at around 7.50pm.

The targeted man managed to jump into a passing Vauxhall Corsa but couldn't escape the chasing car which followed him to the petrol station forecourt on the A461 in Dudley Port.

Treatment

Armed police were then called as the chasing group got out of their car and attacked the Corsa with baseball bats and other weapons, with the vehicle situated just metres away from the Morrisons convenience store and Subway shop.

In the resulting melee the victim was stabbed in the leg and left needing hospital treatment.

Police have since been working to trace the gang, who are reportedly in their 20s and Asian, and have today released CCTV images of four men they want to trace.

Anyone with information is urged to contact police on 101, or to call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 quoting crime number 20SW/114809B/18.

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The company prides itself on having a depth of knowledge in all aspects of the products it offers and industry regulations. The company is fully conversant with all current regulations within the industry. A key aim is to provide a level of customer service that is second to none. More than 70 per cent of all Carera Windows' home sales come via personal recommendation from happy clients, which number many thousands. It takes pride in completing every project to the highest standard.

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The company's showroom at its base is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and Saturday, 10am to 4pm. It offers a wide range of products in various sizes and colours, manufactured using PVCu, aluminium, GRP and hardwood. Carera also installs entrance doors, sliding patio doors, french double doors and porches.

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Blind Dave runs up support for road race

Dave Heeley and Seamus with Alan Bowler, Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club and store manager Darren Burke

BLIND Dave Heeley is taking part in this year's Black Country Road Run, joining West Midlands Mayor Andy Street and Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris.

The 10km and family fun run takes place in Halesowen on July 1. It is organised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club.

Mr Heeley, from West Bromwich, will be taking part for the seventh year. He last took part in the Sutton Coldfield 10km, and before that the Birmingham 10km. He plans to run the 10km, which starts at 10am, and the family fun run at 11am.

Posing for a picture outside sponsors The Big Pet Store this week, he said: "It's a race I always enjoy doing and the only one I dress up in costume. This year I'm thinking about going as a leprechaun with a friend."

The race starts and finishes in Halesowen town centre. People can enter by visiting www.theblackcountryrun.com

Sandwell is worst in region for fuel thefts

DAMNING new figures reveal that Sandwell is the worst-hit area in the Black Country for fuel thefts.

MP John Spellar has said bilking is a 'growing problem' that police need to start 'taking seriously'. He said: "This is big money, particularly for independent garages. They need to nip this in the bud.

"People that commit these crimes are committing other crimes too."

Petrol stations in the Black Country were targeted more than 3,000 times in a year by fuel thieves, new figures have shown.

Now West Midlands Police is encouraging businesses to operate pre-pay policies.

The figures show that in 2017 there were 1,070 bilking incidents in Sandwell, 725 in Dudley, 653 in Walsall and 632 in Wolverhampton. The statistics are from May last year to April this year.

Mr Spellar added: "This is a growing problem and the police need to take this seriously. They need to start cracking down on cloned and forged number plates,

By Megan Archer

as I raise the issue with garages about catching the thieves on cameras and they say they have forged number plates."

West Midlands Police lead for business crime, Supt Harvi Khatkar, said: "The force thoroughly investigates all bilking offences and we work closely with petrol station managers and the British Oil Security Syndicate on tackling this issue.

"While encouraging businesses to take steps to minimise the likelihood of them becoming a victim – such as operating a pre-pay policy and installing good quality CCTV – we also routinely share images of fuel theft suspects on our Flickr and Facebook pages."

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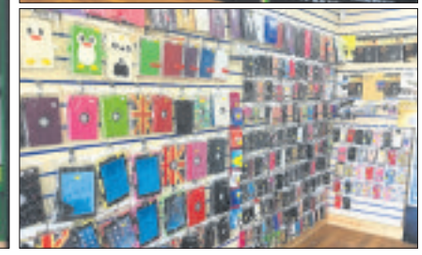

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Coffee cup lid petrol cap driver penalised

MORE than 40 taxi drivers in Sandwell have had licences revoked or refused renewal for a variety of offences in the last 12 months.

It includes one who used a coffee cup lid for a petrol cap. In addition some 60 drivers had their licences suspended with immediate effect in the same period, a report before the borough's licensing committee has revealed.

By Richard Guttridge

In total, members of the committee dealt with 125 licensing cases during 2017-18 , including one driver who used a coffee cup lid to to replace his lost petrol cap.

That driver's licence was suspended for six months and his taxi was immediately taken off the road.

Council officers used their powers to suspend three drivers with immediate effect on the grounds of public safety due to having committed or being investigated for criminal offences of a serious nature.

They also suspended 20 drivers whose Disclosure and Barring Service certificates – criminal history checks – had expired. In addition, 37 drivers had their license suspended for medical reasons. Councillor Bob Piper, chairman of the Licensing Committee, in a report to councillors, said: "The committee has considered 125 individual matters relating to the grant or review of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing throughout the year.

"It is essential that members of the public can feel confident and safe when using Private Hire Vehicles and Hackney Carriages in Sandwell. I am confident that the decisions made by the committee make travelling in a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle a safe and comfortable experience with competent drivers who fulfil the council's essential requirements."

Slimmers donate 70 bags of clothes

Some of the bags which will be going to charity

SLIMMERS are celebrating losing a collective 182-and-a-half stone since January by donating their now too-big clothes to charity.

As part of a national campaign, members of the West Bromwich Leisure Centre Slimming World group were invited to donate clothes, shoes, bags and accessories they no longer needed since losing weight. The kind-hearted slimmers collected more than 70 bags between them – with each worth around £25 to Cancer Research UK.

Weight loss consultant Mandy Hill, who runs the West Bromwich group, said: "It's such a liberating feeling having the confidence to bag up clothes you'll never fit into again, all while raising money for an extremely important cause.

"We really are one big family and I am so proud to see them say goodbye to those larger sizes and set targets for enjoying a healthier holiday season feeling absolutely fantastic."

The Big Slimming World Clothes Throw last year raised £3.3 million for Cancer Research UK.

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WOLVERHAMPTON MAGAZINE

Pub linked to criminals may become apartments

A NOTORIOUS pub which was shut down by police over its links to drug gangs and organised crime will be knocked down and replaced with shops and luxury apartments, under new plans.

The proposals would see the run-down Star and Garter in West Bromwich bulldozed and an area of the town centre transformed.

New artist's impressions show a modern housing and shopping block in place of the pub which was seen by many as a stain on the High Street.

Several shops would be on the ground floor with 39 apartments above.

West Midlands Police took action over the troubled pub in 2016 over concerns someone could be 'seriously hurt or killed' there.

An artist's impression of the planned modern housing and retail block

The Star and Garter pub in High Street, which is facing the bulldozer

Significant

They said it had become a 'no-go zone' due to drugs and weapons on the premises.

The plans have been lodged by Intelligent Move and would be a significant development for that part of the town centre.

West Bromwich councillor Bawa Dhallu said the development would be a boost for the town centre.

He said: "It was a long time ago now that it shut and somebody came in and bought it. There was a lot of things going on there and that is not what we want to see.

"This is good news for the town and I think we should welcome this development."

The Star and Garter was initially shut for 30 days after Sandwell Council suspended its licence at the request of police but it never reopened. A running knife battle in the town centre and another incident when a group of men were threatened with a gun were both said to have been linked to the pub.

Licensing bosses at the council were told a man was stabbed in the back behind The Public building before heading to the Star and Garter as blood poured from him. If the proposed scheme gets the green light, it would continue the regeneration which has taken place in West Bromwich over the past few years.

Hundreds of homes have been built around the town centre, while more are planned for the site of the derelict Queen Square multi-storey car park, which is to be demolished.

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Short and long-term care placements offered in a homely environment

Royal Park

Royal Park is located on the outskirts of Wolverhampton.

The area allows for good transport links, either by road or rail, making visiting easier for family and friends, but also ensuring community therapy programmes are participated in on a regular basis.

The service offers both short and long term placements for residents. This can mean intensive assessment periods for some residents but for others, this may mean an environment which fully understands the longer term needs of people with neurological conditions, a brain or spiral injury, as well as artificial ventilation and tracheostomies.

On admission, a resident would participate in a full assessment of need, offering a baseline from each of the therapy disciplines.

Each person is then supported by the therapy team to set realistic and achievable goals, which all work towards the person's longer term objective.

The catering team provide daily menus, catering for personal tastes, religious and specific dietary requirements. All meals are healthy, well balanced and enjoyable.

At Royal Park, the team offers a balance between a clinical but homely environment and aims aim for everyone to feel welcome and equally involved in the running of the service. This also includes the family, friends or residents, as well as external professionals.

Trinity Court

Trinity Court is a purpose-built service that focuses on the needs and recovery of people with enduring mental health needs at varying times in their recovery journey. A spokesman said: "Our 15-bed service has a unique balance of both clinical and non-clinical staff. Our therapy lead is an experienced Occupational Therapist, who alongside our RMN Unit Manager, ensures the recovery process is instilled in the day to day running of the home. Our use of Goal Attainment Scaling, WRAP and NOHO ensure the correct assessment tools are utilised at the correct point in a person's recovery process.

"The service benefits from 24-hour nurse support, with the overall aim of the service being to enable individuals to gain as much independence as possible, with an individual's potential being maximised and goals set at a pace that is suitable for the person.

"We are able to support intense short term placements through to longer term placements."

Watson demands probe into nuclear tests claim

TOM Watson has called on the Defence Secretary to apologise over the death of a British serviceman whose family say was used as a 'guinea pig' for nuclear bomb testing.

Labour's deputy leader has demanded a full investigation into radiation experiments on British troops during the height of the Cold War between 1952 and 1967.

It comes after the widow of former RAF pilot Eric Denson said she had obtained secret documents that show her husband was used in a deadly experiment as he was ordered to fly through the cloud of a thermonuclear explosion.

Shirley Denson, aged 83, said he was exposed to such a massive dose of radiation to his head in the 1958 flight that it caused crippling headaches so bad that he later killed himself due to the intolerable pain.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has denied the claims and said it was wrong to suggest British troops were the subject of a nuclear experiment.

West Bromwich East MP Mr Watson, who is campaigning for nuclear test veterans to be given medals, said: "This is a shocking document and its contents are something the MoD cannot wriggle out of. We need answers about how many other experiments were conducted, and how many of the 22,000 nuke test vets were involved in them. The Defence Secretary should come to the House of Commons and issue an unqualified apology for what happened to Eric Denson and explain what he is doing to find out just how far this went."

As a result of the hydrogen bomb, two of the Densons' four daughters were born with abnormalities as were some grandchildren and great-grandchildren, it has been reported.

The papers show Mr Denson, who was 24 at the time, had his head exposed to 65 years' worth of normal background radiation – the same as 17,500 dental X-rays – during just six minutes spent flying through the cloud at Christmas Island in the South Pacific.

Mrs Denson said of the documents: "It's absolutely wicked. It's evil. To see it in black and white after all these years took my breath away. It seems our Government used and abused its own men."

Britain's first hydrogen bomb test

Tom Watson wants an investigation

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson

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Daily living skills (cooking, cleaning, laundry)

Physical health (booking health appointments, increasing awareness of your physical health, personal care, mobility)
Sourcing employment (writing CVs, internet safety, applying for jobs)

Communication (turn taking, initiation, expressive and receptive)
Social skills (education on social situations, increasing confidence, community engagement)

Education (access courses, increasing awareness of your own mental health)
Realising a person's potential (confidence building, peer support)

Physiotherapy programmes
Cognitive skills (organising, memory, orientation, sequencing)

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Next steps (sourcing appropriate property, orientation of local areas, setting up tenancies)

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Blooming beauty on way for high street

BUSINESSES in West Bromwich are bringing a splash of colour to their surroundings with 40 hanging baskets being put up.

The organisers of the West Bromwich BID team are to arrange for the baskets to be erected down the busy High Street, from Birmingham Road down to Carters Green.

The project has been back by the BID board, which represents all sectors of the town centre, including the private sector and Sandwell Council.

Councillor Paul Moore, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "This is an excellent gesture which will help to brighten up the town centre area.

"I am sure that traders and shoppers will appreciate a brighter, more colourful town centre through the summer months."

Rebecca Jenkins, chair of the West Bromwich BID said: "We're really excited about getting the new hanging baskets in and around West Bromwich, from the High Street through to Carters Green."

New look at village for 2022 Games in Brum

A NEW artist's impression reveals what Birmingham's Commonweath Games Village will look like when it welcomes sportsmen and women from around the world in 2022.

New artist's impression of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Village

After providing a temporary home for 6,500 athletes and officials during the games, the village will then be converted into 1,000 more permanent homes as the heart of a regeneration plan for the Perry Barr area of the city.

Eventually up to 3,000 new homes will be built around the north-west of Birmingham. The games village will include accommodation, dining, medical, transport and essential services for athletes and team officials and will be situated on a 59-acre (24-hectare) site off the A453 Aldridge Road.

The site is the current location of the old University of Central England (UCE) and Birmingham City University (BCU) campus near Perry Barr greyhound stadium and the One Stop Shopping Centre and is just one mile from Alexander Stadium, which will play a pivotal role during the games.

The competitors and officials will be housed in a mix of one and two-bed apartments as well as three and four-bed town houses.

After the games, the accommodation will be converted and become available as a mixture of homes for sale or rent, including some offered at social and affordable rent through the city council's Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust and In-Reach rental initiative.

As part of the village development, there are plans to invest in wider infrastructure in the surrounding area, including the introduction of a SPRINT rapid bus service along the A34, and work to upgrade Perry Barr railway station.

Councillor Ian Ward, leader of Birmingham City Council and chairman of the Birmingham 2022 bid team, said:

"We are committed to engage with and involve local residents and businesses every step of the way over the next four years."

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Volunteer Centre Sandwell

THANK YOU!

We wish to take this opportunity to extend our most sincere thanks to everyone who attended this year's Sandwell Volunteer Awards & 40th Celebrations held on Saturday 2nd June 2018 at West Bromwich Albion Football Club.

Your presence and participation was warmly received. We have received feedback from the majority of attendees, who have commented on the inspirational messages from individuals, performances also on the venue and hospitality.

We look forward to continually serving the citizens of Sandwell by promoting, enhancing also celebrating volunteers and volunteering.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Jean Taylor
Chief Executive Officer
Volunteer Centre Sandwell

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Scarlet's pride over suffragette ancestor

MARION BRENNAN looks at how Emma Sproson fought for women's vote 100 years on

THE smile may be shy but the 'don't mess with me' pose is definitely a family trait.

For Scarlet Sproson is the great-great-granddaughter of a firebrand who made a name for herself a century ago as part of the suffragette movement.

Emma Sproson, who spent time in prison, was dubbed 'Red Emma' for her beliefs. Scarlet was so-called as a nod to her famous relative's nickname.

Now, as the country celebrates the suffragettes' great victory 100 years ago in winning the vote for a section of women, an exhibition at Wolverhampton Art Gallery shows how the fight for political equality reached the Midlands.

Local hero Emma, born in West Bromwich in 1867, was one of seven children of a canal boat builder who drank heavily, plunging the family into poverty.

They moved to Bilston when Emma was eight and the following year she was sent out to work as a home help.

As a teenager she moved to Lancashire to become a Sunday School teacher, and it is said her interest in politics stemmed from attending a political meeting at which Tory politician Lord Curzon was the special guest.

Emma was refused an answer to a question she had asked him on the basis that 'she was a woman and did not have the vote'. In 1895 she moved to Wolverhampton, and joined the Independent Labour Party, where she met Frank Sproson, the local party secretary, whom she married the following year. They went on to have three children.

Great-great-granddaughter Scarlet

Campaigner – 'Red' Emma Sproson

The Pankhursts stayed with the Sprosons in Hordern Road, Wolverhampton, when they spoke at party meetings in the Black Country.

The friendship and shared political interests led to Emma being invited to take part in a suffragette march to Parliament Square, London, in February 1907, which saw her first arrest.

At the demonstration more than 700 suffragettes made two failed attempts to force entry into the Houses of Parliament. Mounted police were called out to deal with the riot, and Emma was arrested, along with 66 other women, serving 14 days in Holloway Prison.

Emma was ridiculed and abused in the street, and suffered violence for her beliefs but she never gave up the fight and went on to become the first woman to be elected to Wolverhampton Council in 1921.

The exhibition includes photographs and extracts from her diaries offering a first-hand account of her bravery.

Ten-year-old Scarlet, who attends Grove Primary in Wolverhampton, said she was 'very proud' of her fearless ancestor.

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Young scientists celebrate award

From left, Paige, Councillor Hackett, Rihanna, Nathan, science lead Claire Raxworthy-Cooper and Shahan

CHILDREN and staff at a Wednesbury school are celebrating after being given a national award in recognition of their science work. Mesty Croft Academy, in Friar Park, has been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark at Silver level.

The school is one of only 180 to be recognised this month and is among only 2,800 schools in the country to have received the award. The academy was praised by the Primary Science Quality Mark body with them stating "The profile and quality of science teaching and learning in each awarded school is very high."

Councillor Simon Hackett, cabinet member for children's services was invited to visit Mesty Croft Academy where the children were very enthusiastic about their science lessons.

Over the year children have taken part in various science-related projects with some of them going to hear astronaut Tim Peake speak at a recent conference. The children have also learned about floating gardens and the best conditions to grow plants. They also tested the whole school to check to see who was more sensitive to tastes and separated into groups of non-tasters, tasters and super tasters – an experiment they also carried out on Councillor Hackett.

Councillor Hackett was very impressed with the science learning at Mesty Croft. He said: "It was an absolute pleasure to visit Mesty Croft Academy and speak to such enthusiastic children and such a dedicated teacher.

"I even took part in an experiment where the children examined my tongue to see how sensitive I am to different tastes."

Childminder Loren write on target with author dream

A CHILDMINDER in Wednesbury is juggling caring for youngsters with her successful career as a children's author after publishing five books.

Mother-of-three Loren Haigh has published a further four books following the success of her first reading and colouring book, Amelia the Dreamer last year.

By Dayna Farrington

The book tells the tale of a young girl Amelia who draws her draws a picture of somewhere she'd like to visit. She ends up in a perfect world and has to work out how to get back to reality. The book – which is available online – is black and white inside so children can choose to colour it in.

The 27-year-old, who has three children Olivia, seven, Ruby, two, and Mckenzie, four months, said she's really happy with the success of the books.

Loren, who is originally from Walsall, said: "Two of my books are based on one particular character – Amelia. They are called Amelia the Dreamer and Amelia's Christmas Adventure to See Santa. My other three books are more general, with My Day With My Childminders, My Bedtime and My Trip to the Zoo. The reason why I started writing the books was when I was younger, I would write pretend children's books and put the pictures together. I just put it to the back of my head and did not do anything for many years.

"Then I had a dream that I became a successful children's author and when I woke up I had an email about a children's books writing course. It was fate really.

"I followed the course then my first book was released last summer. I am now also in the process of starting my own publishing company – LAH Books Ltd – which is where I will publish my next books."

To purchase Loren's books, visit www.amazon.co.uk.

Loren Haigh with two of the books she has produced, including her first, Amelia the Dreamer

The Ticket

@TheTicket_Star

CAROLE KING'S BEAUTIFUL STORY

PAGE 2

THEATRE + MUSIC + TV LISTINGS + PUZZLES

Offering a friendly atmosphere

Welcome to Ye Olde Wine Shoppe and Haveli Sports Bar, which is located on West Bromwich High Street.

A spokesman said: "You can enjoy a refreshing pint of your favourite beer in a friendly atmosphere, where you can watch Sky Sports and BT Sports showcasing all live events from football to boxing on our multi screens. A pool table and juke box is also available to keep you entertained."

Ye Olde Wine Shoppe pub has been running since the 1800s and has always been renowned for its great tasting wines and beers.

Recently it has been extensively refurbished and extended to create a more comfortable environment. The spokesman added: "Situated above the pub, is our traditional Indian restaurant, which seats up to 120, where we have taken every care and effort to give the restaurant a really soothing and relaxing atmosphere.

"Our traditional Indian chefs create mouth-watering specialist dishes and have mastered their techniques in top class hotels and restaurants all over the world. All food served is traditionally cooked and every dish is prepared with its own unique taste.

"After successfully serving our customers for more than 25 years we aim to continue meeting their demands by providing the ultimate experience in Indian dining.

"We also have a function room available to seat 150 people and we provide catering for any inside or outside events."

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A warm welcome is on offer

The Dovecote is a warm and welcoming pub based in the heart of Hill Top in West Bromwich.

The seven-day homemade carvery has proved very popular with customers over the years and the homemade mash potato is a particular favourite. After celebrating National Fish and Chip Day last week, the Dovecote has decided to now serve homemade fish and chips every Friday.

Serving real ales and also boasting a lovely beer garden and a large car park,the Dovecote is the perfect place to either eat or just pop in for a friendly drink.

Goin' Wild for the Carole King story

Long before she was a chart-topping music legend, Carole King was an ordinary girl with an extraordinary talent. Beautiful, which features at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Tuesday to June 16, tells the inspiring true story of Carole's remarkable rise to stardom.

It shows her journey from being part of a hit song-writing team with her husband Gerry Goffin, to her relationship with fellow writers and best friends Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann, to becoming one of the most successful solo acts in popular music history.

Along the way she wrote the soundtrack to a generation, including one of the best-selling albums of all time, Tapestry, and countless classics such as (You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman, Take Good Care of My Baby, You've Got a Friend, So Far Away, It Might as Well Rain Until September, Up on the Roof, and The Locomotion.

Beautiful – The Carole King Musical will roll into Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre this week and we caught up with leading lady Bronté Barbé to find out what it's like to play the star.

What are you most enjoying about playing Carole King in the UK tour of Beautiful: The Carole King Musical?

The songs! The music is amazing; it's just the best. I haven't played a part like this in my career so far. I also love how everyone in the company on tour with us is so nice; it's a big family feel, which is lovely.

Have you always wanted to be on stage and had the performing bug?

Yes absolutely I have. My mum's always performed – she's done a lot of amateur dramatics and my auntie is a singer so it was always in the family. I first started dancing when I was three in baby ballet, and I took dance lessons for years and years but I didn't actually want to be a dancer. In fact I was always singing, and I think my mum told me that I would be in the park and singing The Little Mermaid to other kids on the swings! I also used to sing Titanic down the phone to my grandma and she used to cry, all that sort of thing! So yes, I've always wanted to perform really. I started doing drama at a young age and doing shows with my mum where I would play the child and things like that. There's nothing else I've wanted to do really, I've been so firm and set on it. The first time I was on stage was when I played the littlest angel in the Nativity play at primary school, and I've loved it ever since.

Were you familiar with Carole King's work prior to joining the show?

Yeah I was. I've had Tapestry for years actually. When I first got a record player I bought it because my Mum said, 'you have to get this album it's amazing', but I didn't realise until listening to it just how many songs that I already knew were actually written by Carole King. Then I saw the show in the West End and realised there are loads and loads of songs I was pleasantly surprised to know, but had no idea were written by her. So many of her songs have filtered into my head without me knowing through the TV or radio.

Was there something in particular that drew you to the role of Carole King, or do you identify with her at all?

Totally, she is so determined, particularly as a woman starting out in the time she did, working in the industry she did. She knew what she wanted, so worked hard and went out and got it, which makes her very inspirational. However, she is also a very relatable character I think.

Beautiful music – Bronté Barbé stars as Carole King

What is life on the road like? Is there one thing you absolutely couldn't be without?

My favourite thing in the world is Lush so every town or city we visit I find a Lush because it makes me feel very calm. Most of the time I try and tour with my little dog so that helps. Lots of little things like putting pictures up in my dressing room and having a certain type of tea before the show help me to feel calm and ready to perform. We aren't in each venue for long but it's nice to feel a little bit settled.

Do you have any particular rituals for pre or post-show?

I just drink tons and tons of water. I always have an interval orange as well like a football match. I always have one, as it's so good for energy and no matter how I'm feeling I just feel great after an interval orange, it's very helpful.

Do you have a dream role that you'd love to take on?

This is absolutely a dream role, being able to play Carole King every night and sing her songs. I would also quite like to be in a period drama. I love to play inspiring women and there aren't that many fully female-led shows out there so playing Carole King is wonderful.

> *She worked hard and went out and got it, which makes her inspirational*

Carole King is an icon of the singer songwriter world and an idol to many. Do you have any idols that you look up to?

Oh yeah totally. I would probably say Julie Walters and Victoria Wood. My idols are lots of female comedy geniuses. However, playing Carole King every night is great, she's definitely iconic!

The tour stops in Wolverhampton, does this venue have any significance for you?

Wolverhampton is great because I can stay with family which is always lovely.

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

Gary Barlow in concert

Gary is ready to shine as he gets closer to the fans

It's been 20 years since Gary Barlow last played Birmingham's Symphony Hall. Now the Take That frontman is back with two shows, on Thursday and Friday, June 14 and June 15.

The last time Barlow played a string of venues this size, which included Wolverhampton Civic Hall, the demand was so high he could have sold some venues out six times over.

The Cheshire-born singer said: "I had such a lot of fun back in 2013 when I played those smaller venues because you're so much closer to the fans. The audience always seem to love the intimacy of it all too."

Barlow found worldwide fame as a member of Take That. Since forming in 1989 the group have won eight BRIT awards, sold more than 45 million records and over eight million concert tickets. He has also become a familiar face on TV via a stint as a judge of The X Factor and his own talent show Let It Shine.

He is one of Britain's most successful songwriters, having written 14 Number One singles as well as being a six-time recipient of an Ivor Novello Award.

In recent years, Barlow has also turned his attention to the world of theatre, composing the score for the hugely successful production Finding Neverland, working alongside screenwriter Tim Firth to write the music and lyrics for musical The Girls and also working alongside his Take That band mates to produce The Band, featuring the music of Take That.

New opportunity knocks for Crush

CLIFF Richard's hit 1963 film Summer Holiday has been turned into a feel-good musical.

It is coming on tour at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, June 12 to 16 featuring Ray Quinn as Don, the role originally played by Cliff in the film, who heads on a fun-packed trip in a London bus across Europe in search of a good time and a brilliant summer.

Along the way they pick up a girl singing group and a young American pop star who is on the run from her domineering mother.

The show features such vintage Cliff hits as In the Country, Summer Holiday, Bachelor Boy, Move It, Living Doll, The Young Ones and On the Beach.

Pianist turned actor Bobby Crush, pictured, the Opportunity Knocks winner recently seen in Last Laugh in Vegas, will co-star as Don's long-suffering agent Jerry. Crush says folks are in for a treat. "My friend Darren Day toured with it some years ago. This is a great show."

Crush found fame after featuring as a teenaged pianist on ITV talent show Opportunity Knocks.

"The young people that don't remember, I tell them it was the forerunner to The X Factor. It had the same impact on a career that X Factor does and it was great for me. Opportunity Knocks got me a recording contract, a six-album deal with Phillips records, plus an agent. It was a great start.

"We only had BBC 1, 2 and ITV. That was it. It wasn't diluted like it is now with satellite stations. You could get 17 million watching a week, these days that's unheard of. I went from £12 a week as an office boy to supporting Jack Jones at the London Palladium on £150 per week. In 1972, that was a lot of money. It really changed my life."

Take a Peaky as poet comes home

Poet and Peaky Blinders actor Benjamin Zephaniah has hit the road for his first solo UK tour in eight years, including a home date at Birmingham Town Hall next Friday, June 15. The Handsworth-born writer and broadcaster published his autobiography last month, entitled The Life And Rhymes Of Benjamin Zephaniah. "They say you're supposed to mellow with age but I haven't. If anything, I just seem to be getting more militant," says Zephaniah, who is honorary patron of The Vegan Society.

Influential play is brought up to date

In a collaboration between Birmingham Repertory Theatre and Birmingham International Dance Festival 2018, 100 local performers will breathe new life into 19th century play Woyzeck, from June 15 to 23 at the Centenary Square theatre. Georg Büchner's Woyzeck has been described as one of the most influential plays ever written. In this new production directors Roxana Silbert and Rosie Kay, and writer Leo Butler, create a Woyzeck for our time. Woyzeck is the story of a young soldier who has started to hear voices in his head. Roxana Silbert, artistic director at Birmingham Rep, said: "Woyzeck is a powerful story that has been sharply brought up-to-date. It's about the impact of war on communities, the pressure on a young person trying to make ends meet and ultimately about how love can be devastatingly destroyed."

Pub with a great reputation

The Red Lion in West Bromwich is a family-run public house which has been managed by Surjit Purewal for more than 20 years.

It has built up a great reputation as an easy going and family-friendly pub.

Having grown in size and stature over the years, a spokesman claims it is now one of the largest desi pubs in the country where the standard of food matches that of high end Indian restaurants.

Chefs are well experienced, coming from some of the top restaurants in India, and the pub has consistently gained outstanding reviews on rating websites and has a 'Certificate of Excellence' from Trip Advisor.

Diners come from all over the country to sample the famous mixed grill, fish pakora and a wide range of vegetarian food.

The spokesman added: "Come along and enjoy the warm hospitality."

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Entertainment on the menu

The Crosswells Inn is a traditional restaurant and bar based in Langley, Oldbury near Birmingham.

The bar boasts lots of entertainment including four big sports screens showcasing all the major sporting events including this summer's World Cup football, golf, cricket and boxing.

A spokesman said: "Join us for a friendly game of poker every Thursday night from 8pm. Whether you're an accomplished player or you're picking up playing cards for the first time, the Crosswells provides the perfect atmosphere for a cracking game of poker and a great night out.

"We offer something for everyone down here at the Crosswells. If it's losing weight or keeping fit, then why not join our weekly Zumba class every Monday or join our Weight Watchers club.

"Come join us any Sunday for our famous carvery, offering a choice of meats and we also cater for vegetarians, gluten-free foods and coeliac friendly. We also do a mid week carvery from Tuesday to Friday between 12pm and 2pm. A take-away service is also available and we are very proud of our 5* food hygiene rating.

"Got an event to plan? Need a room? Look no further, we have recently refurbished our function suite making it the ideal place to host your party.

"Ideal for all occasions. Don't forget we also offer decorations and catering packages. Let us do the running around for you."

Keep up to date with the entertainment programme, which includes live singers, disco and karaoke nights, on the Facebook page and website.

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SATURDAY'S TV JUNE 9

CHOICE

Germaine Greer

Germaine Bloody Greer (BBC2, 9pm)
Profile of the writer and academic, whose 1970 book The Female Eunuch became an international bestseller and an important part of the feminist movement. The programme features previously unseen archive footage, while interviews with Greer reveal with typical honesty, candour and wit her thoughts on the days when the book was originally published, as well as her opinion on the MeToo movement. Camille Paglia, Zoe Heller and Rosie Boycott are among those sharing their opinions on the influence of The Female Eunuch.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **10.30** Trooping the Colour. **1.05** BBC News; Weather. **1.20** Triathlon: Nottingham Mixed Relay. **2.50** Athletics: Diamond League Oslo Highlights. **3.50** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.50** Escape to the Continent. (R) **5.50** BBC News.
6.00 Regional Programme.
6.05 Film: Maleficent. (2014) A fairy falls in love with an ambitious human nobleman, who betrays her in pursuit of claiming the throne. She swears to get revenge on him by placing a curse on his daughter, only to find herself developing a maternal bond with the girl. Fantasy adventure based on the story of Sleeping Beauty, starring Angelina Jolie, Elle Fanning, Sharlto Copley and Imelda Staunton.
7.35 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman put an "international" spin on their unorthodox quiz show, by inviting famous faces from all over the world to team up. Seeking the least likely correct answers today are American singers Jimmy Osmond and Kym Mazelle, Irish pop duo Jedward, Singapore-born chef Nancy Lam and Australian comedian Sam Simmons, and Argentinean football coach Ossie Ardiles and Spanish sports journalist Guillem Balagué. (R)
8.25 Casualty. Eddie discovers that Alicia has swapped all her shifts to avoid him, while Bea receives a phone call about her dad and leaves work to pick him up from the police station.
9.15 All Round to Mrs Brown's. Mrs Brown's Boys creator, writer and star Brendan O'Carroll dons Agnes's famous cardigan and curlers once again, throwing open the doors of the larger-than-life Irish matriarch's home to host a Saturday night chat show, filmed in front of a live studio audience. Inviting friends, family and special guests to join her in the sitting room, Mrs Brown stages mischievous stunts, and gives a few celebrity visitors a piece of her mind.
10.15 BBC News; Weather.
10.35 Film: Thor: The Dark World. (2013) Superhero adventure sequel, with Chris Hemsworth.
12.20 The Button. (R) **12.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.25 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.50** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. **7.20** The Pets Factor. **7.40** The Dengineers. **8.10** Absolute Genius Super Tech with Dick & Dom. **8.40** Beyond Bionic. **9.10** Natural Born Winners. (R) **10.10** Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes? (R) **11.10** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.10** The World Cup: Heroes of '66. **12.45** Wanted Down Under. (R) **1.30** The World According to Kids. (R) **2.30** Second Chance Summer: Tuscany. (R) **3.30** Demolition: The Wrecking Crew. (R) **4.30** Love in the Countryside. (R) **5.30** The River Wye with Will Millard.
6.00 Grammar Schools: Who Will Get In? Townley Grammar in Bexley, south-east London, is judged to be one of the best schools in the UK, while two miles down the road Erith School, a secondary modern, is striving to pick itself up after an Ofsted report that judged the school to require improvement. Erith's mixed-ability students include some with learning difficulties and others who resent authority. At Townley Grammar, there are far fewer such problems, and the school employs three full-time staff to help students cope with the pressure they put themselves under to keep up with their high-achieving peers. (R)
7.00 Dad's Army. The platoon is selected to appear in an army training film, but Captain Mainwaring refuses to take part when he finds out his men are to play Nazi soldiers. (R)
7.30 Trooping the Colour Highlights. The best of the annual pageant, which officially marks the birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II, performed by the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards on Horse Guards Parade. Huw Edwards introduces the highlights, with reports from JJ Chalmers.
9.00 Germaine Bloody Greer. Profile of the writer and academic, whose 1970 book The Female Eunuch became an international bestseller and an important part of the feminist movement.
10.00 Girl's Guide to TV.
10.45 Later Weekend with Jools Holland. Extended version of the music programme.
11.45 Film: Made in Dagenham. (2010) Fact-based comedy drama, starring Sally Hawkins.
1.30 This Is BBC Two. **5.55** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Star Wars Freemaker Adventures. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! (R) **7.40** Adventure Time. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.20** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **12.15** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **1.15** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** Live French Open Tennis. The women's singles final at Roland Garros. **5.00** The Chase. (R)
6.00 ITV News; Weather.
6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.30 Ninja Warrior UK. Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara present the final of the obstacle-course challenge. Competitors from across the nation test their strength, speed and courage, with those who make it to the end of the adrenaline-fuelled mission face one final task – scaling the heights of a tower named Mount Midoriyama – as they battle it out for the title of Ninja Warrior UK. Last in the series.
7.30 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule. An unseen edition featuring the host's favourite moments from series two that did not make the final cut. Featuring Johnny Vegas, Jimmy Osmond and Anneka Rice. Last in the series.
8.00 Take Me Out: Over 50s Special. Paddy McGuinness hosts a special episode featuring women over 50, with a retired policeman, a hotelier and a dance teacher taking their turn in the love lift.
9.00 Film: The Hangover. (2009) Three men on a stag weekend in Las Vegas wake up after a night of heavy drinking and find they have not only misplaced the groom, but somehow gained a tiger and a baby. Unable to remember the details of the night before, they set about piecing the clues together in the hope of finding their missing friend. Comedy, starring Bradley Cooper.
10.55 ITV News; Weather.
11.15 Play to the Whistle. (R)
12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Mr Selfridge. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **6.45** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.10** Marathon: Swansea Half. **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.35** Frasier. (R) **9.10** Frasier. (R) **9.40** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.35** The Simpsons. (R) **11.05** The Simpsons. (R) **11.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.40** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.15** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.45** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.20** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.20** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **3.50** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.50** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R) **5.50** Channel 4 News.
6.15 Grand Designs. Following the work of Ed and Rowena Waghorn as they continue to build a handcrafted, five-bedroom house on an eight acre smallholding in Herefordshire, 10 years in the making. Progress on the build was slow as Ed decided to do most of the work himself, and after four years the house was still a shell. Now, years later, is it possible this house may finally become a medieval masterpiece? (R)
7.10 The World's Wildest Weather. Footage shot by members of the public of unusual and dangerous weather from around the world, including Alpine avalanches and cyclones in the South Pacific. The programme features first-hand accounts of the events featured and scientific analysis of the footage and how the strange weather conditions came about. (R)
8.10 Live International Rugby Union. Argentina v Wales (Kick-off 8.40pm). Lee McKenzie presents coverage of the first of two Tests, which takes place at the Estadio San Juan del Bicentenario. Wales have won five of the last six meetings between the nations, but all of those matches were in Cardiff, and Argentina won both contests when the Welsh last visited South America in 2006. With commentary by Eddie Butler and Martyn Williams, and analysis from Ugo Monye, Shane Williams and Thinus Delport.
10.55 Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.
12.25 Film: The Watch. (2012) **2.10** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.20** My Kitchen Rules. (R) **5.15** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) **5.20** Fifteen to One. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.45** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.25** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **3.20** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.15** Rich House, Poor House: The Big Surprise. (R) **5.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R)
6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Agents try to evict a woman who owes £6,000 in unpaid rent, and meet a man who says he cannot pay a £7,000 debt, despite having a garage full of expensive tools. (R)
7.00 Building the London Underground. The technologies that have helped make the Tube the second-biggest metro system in the world, from tunnel-boring methods to building vast subterranean stations. (R)
7.55 5 News Weekend.
8.00 Secrets of the Valley of the Kings. An exploration of the Valley of the Kings, the royal necropolis of the pharaohs and the world's most famous royal burial ground. Egyptologists investigate what drove Egypt's greatest pharaohs to seek out this secluded valley to hide their remains, how ancient craftsmen managed to achieve such feats of engineering and keep pace with the ever-shifting designs, and why was the sacred site was finally abandoned. Narrated by Mark Halliley. (R)
9.00 Secrets of Tutankhamun's Treasures. Items found in Tutankhamun's tomb that paint a picture of his family, including mummified babies – the offspring of an incestuous relationship with his sister.
10.00 Alexander the Great's Lost Tomb. The search for the lost tomb of Alexander the Great, the Macedonian warlord, which has eluded experts for nearly 2,000 years. Archaeologist Dr Nick Saunders follows the clues.
11.05 The Ten Plagues of Egypt: Ancient Mysteries. How ash from a volcanic eruption may have triggered a deadly domino effect, turning the Nile red and making its waters toxic and explaining the biblical tale of the 10 plagues. (R)
12.05 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **4.00** Secrets of the Chocolate Factory: Inside Cadbury. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Burrowers: Animals Underground **8.00** Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise **9.00** Hidden **10.00** The League of Gentlemen **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1985 **12.00** Big in America: British Hits in the USA **1.00** Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise **2.00** I Was There: Kate Adie on Tiananmen Square **3.00** How to Get Ahead: At Versailles **4.00** Close
ITV2
12.05 Celebrity Catchphrase **1.05** Funniest Ever You've Been Framed! Gold **2.10 Film:** Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams (2002) **3.10** FYI Daily **3.15 Film:** Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams (2002) **4.20 Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **5.20** FYI Daily **5.25 Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **6.25 Film:** Battleship (2012) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30 Film:** Battleship (2012) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.05** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **1.10** Celebrity Juice: Just the Tip **2.10** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
1.05 A Touch of Frost **3.00 Film:** Columbo Undercover (1994) **5.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **7.00** Lewis **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** A Touch of Frost **1.05** On the Buses **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
11.30 Football's Foreign Legion **12.30** Storage Wars: Texas **1.30** ITV Racing Live from Haydock. Coverage from Haydock Park, Musselburgh and Newmarket. **4.20** Storage Wars **4.50** Live French Open Tennis. The men's doubles final at Roland Garros. **7.00** Isle of Man TT **10.00** Cycling: Criterium du Dauphine Highlights **11.00 Film:** The Departed (2006) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10 Film:** The Departed (2006) **2.00** Minder **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.30 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **11.45** The Goldbergs **1.45** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.15** Young Sheldon **2.40** The Big Bang Theory **7.15 Film:** The Hunger Games (2012) **10.00 Film:** I, Frankenstein (2014) **11.50** Gogglebox **2.00** Tattoo Fixers **3.00** Rude Tube **4.20** Rude(ish) Tube **4.45** How I Met Your Mother
Film4
11.00 Fletch (1985) **1.00** The Rewrite (2014) **3.10** Hotel for Dogs (2009) **5.10** Carry On Jack (1963) **6.55** Last Vegas (2013) **9.00** The Monuments Men (2014) **11.20** An American Werewolf in London (1981) **1.15** Boy (2010) **3.05** Close

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Waggon & Horses also showcase all the major sporting events from Football to Boxing all featured on Sky Sports, BT Sports and Box Nation. For those who like 'doing' rather than 'watching' there is the availability of the Pool Table. The pub itself boasts a wide range of ciders, lagers, wines and spirits including 'Real Ales' which they rotate weekly. Regulars very often enjoy ales such as Bathams, AJ Ales, Oakham, JHB, Stairway To Heaven and MA Pardoes Entire, Plus many more!.
The pub also run a loyalty scheme which means customers get 10p back on their card for every pound spend.
The pub also has regular live entertainment over weekends and also offers a FREE Juke box on a Friday night.

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Perfect for family dining

The Harrier, situated on Powis Avenue, Tipton, is proud to be one of the entrants for Sandwell Pub Of The Year.
The pub boasts a huge bar area with a pool table and darts board as well as an open fire.
The Harriers will be serving food very soon and will be making the most of their lounge area where customers can come away from the bar area and dine in making this an ideal place where families can spend some quality time together.
A spokesman said: "If you are looking for a venue to host a special occasion then look no further, as the Harriers offers a free function room which is ideal for all occasions including weddings, christenings and all birthday celebrations.
"There is a child's outside play area, which will keep all children entertained, as well as an outside seating area.
"If you fancy something different why not join our bingo club every Monday night from 7pm or every Wednesday from 12pm so eyes down and look in.
"Are you looking to lose weight this summer? Then come along to our Slimming World club every Thursday.
"Customers old and new will find regular drinks promotions on offer which are not to be missed."

SUNDAY'S TV JUNE 10

CHOICE

Eleanor Tomlinson & Josh Whitehouse

Poldark (BBC1, 9pm)

New series. The period drama returns for a fourth series, which sees the country plunged into uncertainty when the prime minister calls an election. George Warleggan's reign as member for Truro has had a devastating impact on the city, and Hugh is determined to displace him. Rioting erupts on the streets, which results in Zacky's son and the Carnes brothers being accused of murder, while Ross is helpless to intervene. The Enyses consider having a child, and Demelza seeks to reconcile two rival local lords. Period drama, starring Aidan Turner, Eleanor Tomlinson, Christian Brassington, Ellise Chappell, Beatie Edney, Jack Farthing, Luke Norris, Heida Reed and Harry Richardson.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** BBC News; Weather. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** Points of View. **1.15** Lifeline. **1.25** Songs of Praise. **2.00** Britain Celebrates Live: 100 Years of Women's Votes. **4.00** Who Do You Think You Are? (R) **5.00** Britain's Best Home Cook. (R)

6.00 Wallace & Gromit: A Close Shave. Nick Park's animated characters embark on their third adventure, which sees Wallace fall in love and Gromit framed for sheep rustling. With the voices of Peter Sallis and Anne Reid. (R)

6.30 BBC News.

6.45 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. The last of three royal specials from the Sandringham estate, where the first ever Christmas broadcast was recorded. Matt Baker meets the head gardener to discover how the trees are shaped to look their best in winter, Adam Henson delves into the history of blackcurrant harvesting, and Ellie Harrison joins the head gamekeeper in a tour of the estate's various wildlife habitats.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents a special episode from the Houses of Parliament celebrating the 100th anniversary of women winning the right to vote, examining artefacts connected to remarkable women throughout British history, including leading suffragist Millicent Fawcett, photographer Christina Broom, secret agent Violette Szabo, gymnast Florence Atwood and polar explorers Ann Daniels and Caroline Hamilton.

9.00 Poldark. New series. The country is plunged into uncertainty during an election, and a riot erupts in Truro – leaving Zacky's son accused of murder, while Ross is helpless to intervene.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Our Friend Victoria. (R)

11.00 Suffragettes with Lucy Worsley. The historian examines the battle that women had to wage for the right to vote, following the stories of young working class suffragettes who rebelled against Edwardian society. (R)

12.30 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.35 BBC News.

BBC2

6.40 Gardeners' World. (R) **7.40** Countryfile. (R) **8.35** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.05** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.35** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **11.20** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **12.20** The World Cup: Hopes of a Nation. **1.00** Triathlon: World Series – Leeds. The ITU World Series meeting from Leeds.

6.00 Dragons' Den. Jenny Campbell, Peter Jones, Tej Lalvani, Deborah Meaden and Touker Suleyman assess the profit-making potential of more business plans, including a range of story books intended to help children learn other languages, skin care products made out of hemp, and a solution to pain caused by halter neck straps. (R)

7.00 Million Pound Menu. Fred Sirieix presents the fine dining challenge which follows people who work in the food business as they seek major investment to launch their own restaurants. (R)

8.00 Journey in the Danger Zone: Iraq. Part two of two. Adnan Sarwar joins a party of pilgrims on a journey to the Holy Shrines of Kerbala, and visits one of several visitor cities built to house the thousands who come to the sacred site each year. He then moves on to Fallujah, where he visits a school for children with hearing and speech disabilities, and goes behind the scenes on a controversial TV show in which prisoners are made to apologise for their crimes on air.

9.00 Frankie Goes to Russia. Part two of two.

10.00 Atlanta. Paper Boi becomes the hip hop world's poster-child for toxic masculinity and transphobia after he makes some offensive Tweets about Caitlyn Jenner, and ends up on a talk show.

10.20 Atlanta. Paper Boi secures a gig playing a club, but neither he nor Earn are keen on the prospect, especially when they fall foul of a ruthless promoter unwilling to pay his dues.

10.50 Girl's Guide to TV. (R)

11.35 Athletics: Diamond League Stockholm Highlights. The Bauhaus-Galan. Action from the sixth Diamond League event of the season, which was held at Stockholm Olympic Stadium.

12.35 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R)
1.35 Holby City. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Star Wars Freemaker Adventures. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball On Sunday. **9.25** The Queen's Coronation in Colour. (R) **10.20** How to Spend It Well: House and Garden with Phillip Schofield. (R) **11.20** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **1.30** Live French Open Tennis. The men's singles final at Roland Garros. **5.30** Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule. (R)

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 Soccer Aid for UNICEF 2018. England v World XI (Kick-off 8.00pm). Kirsty Gallacher and Dermot O'Leary host live coverage of the annual football match between teams of celebrities and professional athletes to raise money for children's charity Unicef. The game is played at Manchester United's Old Trafford Stadium, with England captain Robbie Williams taking on a team led by Usain Bolt. Among the players are Mo Farah, Gordon Ramsay, Olly Murs, and Eric Cantona, returning to his former home turf. Featuring live music from Jessie Ware. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport. The Border Force pull over a Ghanaian businessman declaring £114,000 in cash. A blind date takes place in the airport. (R)

10.50 Football's Foreign Legion. Forty years on from the first wave of foreign footballers, this is the story of those pioneering players and their legacy.

11.50 Great Art. Tim Marlow reflects on the American Impressionist movement, which was inspired by great French masters including Claude Monet. Narrated by Gillian Anderson. Last in the series. (R)

12.45 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00** Motorsport UK. Action from Donington Park. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Eat the Week. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Bake Off: The Professionals. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30 Film:** Volcano. (1997) Disaster thriller, starring Tommy Lee Jones. **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** Bang on Budget.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Escape to the Chateau. Dick and Angel look ahead to wedding season, with eight couples booking the chateau for their big day. Dick also converts a stone barn into a flat for Angel's parents, getting rid of 150 years' worth of rubbish in the process, but tensions rise between the couple when he gets carried away with the trees at the front of the property. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Bake Off: The Professionals. Liam Charles and Tom Allen put the remaining teams to the test with a secret recipe challenge, then gives them a chance to impress judges Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin with their showmanship by making a chocolate showpiece inspired by the theme of the four seasons.

9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. A baby shower provokes a troubling shift in Offred's relationship with Serena Joy, and prompts her to reckon with the choice she made that led her to become a Handmaid.

10.10 8 Out of 10 Cats. Aisling Bea is joined by Joel Dommett and James Acaster, while Rob Beckett teams up with Joe Swash and Roisin Conaty to discuss memorable moments from school. Jimmy Carr hosts. (R)

10.40 Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Highlights. Action from the seventh round of the season at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal. Lewis Hamilton was looking for a fourth successive victory in this race and seventh overall.

12.40 Film: The Man with the Iron Fists. (2012) Martial arts adventure, starring RZA. **2.15** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **3.10** Building the Dream. (R) **4.05** My Kitchen Rules. (R) **5.00** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **5.05** Cheap Cheap Cheap. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Mofy. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.35** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.50** Rusty Rivets. (R) **8.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.20** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.35** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.55** Floogals. (R) **9.05** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.20** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.40** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.45** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **11.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.05 Film:** Holes. (2003) Family adventure, starring Shia LaBeouf. **3.05** Access. **3.10 Film:** Holes. (2003) Concluded. **4.30** FIA Formula E Live. The Zurich ePrix.

6.15 World's Scariest Animal Attacks 2. Terrifying animal encounters caught on camera, including the moment sharks turned on a free-diving father and son, and a 500lb elephant seal that reacted violently when intimidated. (R)

7.00 Cricket on 5. Scotland v England.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 The Yorkshire Steam Railway: All Aboard. A look at the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, following the lives of some of the workers who keep the wheels turning and the passengers happy on one of the world's most popular steam lines. To pull in the punters in, star engine Royal Scot is hired to headline for a week and for general manager Chris it's an expensive gamble as this big and powerful engine was designed to thunder on mainline rails, while the heritage railway has much smaller platforms and bridges. Until Royal Scot arrives and goes through a gauging run on the line, they won't know if she will actually fit the railway. (R)

9.00 The Yorkshire Steam Railway: All Aboard. The start of the Easter timetable at the North Yorkshire Moors Railway finds marketing manager Laura devising a stunt to capitalise on the Tour de Yorkshire cycling race. (R)

10.00 Top of the Box 1978 with Matthew Kelly. Last in the series.

12.05 The Best of Bad TV: The 70s. (R)
1.55 SuperCasino.

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Locomotion: Dan Snow's History of Railways **8.00** Timeshift: The Golden Age of Coach Travel **9.00** Swallowed by the Sea – Ancient Egypt's Greatest Lost City **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Horizon: Cosmic Dawn – The Real Moment of Creation **11.30** Civilisations Stories: King Coal **12.00** Ego: The Strange and Wonderful World of Self-Portraits **1.30** Locomotion: Dan Snow's History of Railways **2.30** Swallowed by the Sea – Ancient Egypt's Greatest Lost City **3.30** Close

ITV2

12.20 Take Me Out **1.35 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **2.40** FYI Daily **2.45 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **3.20 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **4.25** FYI Daily **4.30 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **5.10 Film:** Despicable Me 2 (2013) **6.10** FYI Daily **6.15 Film:** Despicable Me 2 (2013) **7.05 Film:** Legally Blonde (2001) **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10 Film:** Legally Blonde (2001) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Aftersun **11.05** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.55 A Touch of Frost **3.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **5.00** Vera **9.00** Unforgotten **11.00** Wire in the Blood **1.00** Blue Murder **2.20** Liverpool 1 **3.20** Road to Avonlea **5.05** George and Mildred

ITV4

11.15 Live British Touring Car Championship. Round four from Oulton Park. **6.00** Snooker v Darts **6.10** The Chase Celebrity Special **7.15** River Monsters **8.15 Film:** Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) **9.15** FYI Daily **9.20 Film:** Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) **10.00** Cycling: Criterium du Dauphine Highlights **11.00 Film:** Death Wish 2 (1981) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05 Film:** Death Wish 2 (1981) **12.50** Fifth Gear

E4

12.20 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.50** Young Sheldon **1.20** The Big Bang Theory **6.20 Film:** Hulk (2003) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Gogglebox **11.00** Gogglebox Australia **12.05** The Big Bang Theory

Film4

11.00 The Ladykillers (1955) **1.00** Rugrats Go Wild (2003) **2.40** Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **4.20** The Longest Ride (2015) **6.50** Crocodile Dundee II (1988) **9.00** The Bourne Legacy (2012) **11.40** Starred Up (2013) **1.50** Summer in February (2013) **4.00** Close

Warm welcome guaranteed

Regular tribute acts, well known singers and karaoke is what the Knights Quest is best known for, with entertainment available every night of the week.

When there is no singer in town, the gaps are filled with discos and quiz nights.

A great family pub offering comfortable surroundings and top class food, ranging from steaks and grills to a delicious carvery with prices to tempt many diners.

A spokesman added: "We offer a large range of draught beers including Cask Marque accredited ales, lagers, ciders and we also stock a large selection of spirits and wines.

"Free parking is another tick in the box for this family friendly pub, a warm welcome, a great atmosphere and good food ensures a visit will definitely be repeated."

Reputation for fine cuisine

The British Queen, which has been owned by Mr Sidhu for over 12 years, is taking part in the the Express & Star pub competition of the year 2018, after winning the Local Ads Pub Of The Year last year.

A spokesman said: "We are considered one of the best Desi pubs in the Sandwell area serving some of the finest Indian cuisine and have recently been awarded a 5* hygiene rating.

"You will find a free function room available at the British Queen, seating a capacity of 40 people, and you will get the same access to the bar and beer garden.

"The British Queen will also look after your catering needs."

The British Queen also showcases all the main sporting events from football and the World Cup to cricket and boxing and they have multi-screens so you don't have to miss a second of the action.

The spokesman added: "If doing is more your thing than watching, you will be able to enjoy a game of pool at the venue whilst you enjoying a nice cold beer."

The British Queen is located on the Birmingham Road, Oldbury, B69 4EW.

PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Cry for Justice, Channel 5, 3.15pm
When her son is falsely accused of murder, Jackie fights against the odds to free him. While he languishes in prison while the prosecution seeks a life sentence, their lives are sent on differing paths of wavering faith and tentative hope. Drama, based on a true story, starring Francine Locke and Drew Matthews. (2013)

TUESDAY
The Wrong Daughter, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Couple Kate and Joe, who have longed to be parents together, are delighted when Danica, a child Kate gave up 17 years ago, comes to stay. Thriller, starring Cindy Busby, Jon Prescott and Sierra Pond. (2018)

WEDNESDAY
Strangers in Amish Country, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A military nurse returns from a tour of duty in Afghanistan to her family's farm in rural Ohio, and falls for an Amish neighbour after an intruder wreaks havoc. Romantic drama, starring Jes Macallan, Sean Faris and Kelly McGillis. (2017)

The Wolf of Wall Street, Friday, Channel 4, 11.40pm

THURSDAY
Lethal Admirer, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman moves across the country to rebuild her life after the tragic death of her boyfriend. She is pleasantly surprised to run into an old colleague and the two become firm friends, but things soon take a turn for the worse when he sets out to win her heart - by any means necessary. Thriller, starring Karissa Lee Staples, Drew Seeley and Brian Ames. (2018)

FRIDAY
The Wolf of Wall Street, Channel 4, 11.40pm
A New York stockbroker rises from unemployment to become one of the richest men in the city's financial elite through an illegal scheme to defraud investors. His wealth brings him an outrageously debauched lifestyle, but comes at a price as the FBI become suspicious of his manipulation of the markets. Martin Scorsese's fact-based drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Matthew McConaughey. (2013)

Georgie finds herself in the firing line once again

The new series of military drama Our Girl began last week, but it seems that star Michelle Keegan is still getting over the events of the previous run.

That's when her on-screen fiancée Elvis Harte (Luke Pasquilano) was killed in an explosion, leaving her character Georgie Lane heartbroken.

Keegan says that Georgie will continue to grieve for him throughout the series: "She's had six months out for compassionate leave and is now throwing herself into work. She's definitely not over Elvis at all and you'll see throughout the episodes that his death has really affected her."

It's also been a tough time for the actress. She says: "It was really, really strange. Luke and I started on the series at the same time together and it was so odd when he left. It was like a hole and I definitely missed him.

"We literally started the next episode the day after Elvis died. Luke left on a Thursday and on a Friday we started to film episode five. It took a long time for me to adjust as all our storylines were always based around Georgie and Elvis and the 'will they, won't they' situation."

At least the actress, who first found fame as feisty Tina on Coronation Street, can take some comfort in the fact that she wasn't the only one affected by the storyline – Our Girl fans were also devastated by Elvis's death.

She says: "I was in Malaysia at the time and it was 6am when it aired in the UK. I looked at my phone and it had gone crazy.

"What was great was that it hadn't been released that Elvis was going to get killed so it was obviously a massive shock for the audience who follow the story. I just remember that all the women's hearts on Twitter were broken that night."

However, in this second episode, Georgie may not get too much time to dwell on Elvis, as she meets undercover Special Forces operative, Bones (Oliver Rix) – and he doesn't make the best first impression.

Keegan explains: "They get off to a rocky start as Georgie sees him in Nigeria where he throws a child out of his way. But obviously goodie two shoes Georgie won't stand for that and ends up confronting him."

She adds: "You soon see that he is the Head of Special Forces and has taken over Elvis' role but he is totally different. He's very angry all the time, very old school and isn't emotionally led, he also hasn't got a friendship with Captain James. However, you see him and 2 Section build a relationship which is really exciting."

And there's even more drama, as 2-Section try to trade the detained son of a rebel leader for an imprisoned Nigerian military medic, unaware their captors are setting a trap. It leads to a tense stand-off, but will everyone make if out alive this time, or is Keegan going to have to deal with more early morning messages from fans?

Michelle Keegan stars in Our Girl, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Flowers
Channel 4, 10pm
The critically acclaimed comedy drama is back for a second series – and like the first run, it's showing across consecutive evenings, which makes it even easier to be drawn into its dark and imaginative world. For those who missed the original series, it followed depressed children's book author Maurice (Julian Barratt), his well-meaning wife Deborah (Olivia Colman) and their maladjusted adult twin children Amy (Sophia Di Martino) and Donald (Daniel Rigby). The opening double bill picks up the action a few years later, and it seems that Maurice is now doing better and Deborah has become a writer herself by penning a book about her husband's illness. But the clan still has its eccentricities – for a start, Amy has taken up with Hylda (Harriet Walter), an unconventional priest and former addict.

TUESDAY
The Martin Lewis Money Show Live
ITV, 8pm
According to a survey a few years ago, Martin Lewis was the most Googled British man. And the financial journalist's popularity and usefulness shows no signs of waning just yet as he returns for a live summer special from Warwick Castle. The programme features money-saving tips aiming to help consumers cope with the season's current economic climate. Plus, as this is a summer special, there is bound to be tips for viewers hoping to get the most out of their Euros, Dollars and Zloty, as well as a clarification of data roaming charges, and suggestions if your flight gets delayed. As usual, Martin is keen for everyone to join in, so whether you have a query on travel insurance, car hire or currency, have your questions at the ready.

WEDNESDAY
The Fast Fix: Diabetes
ITV, 9pm
There was a time when it was thought that Type 2 diabetes was a medical life sentence, but as viewers of The One Show will have seen recently, that's not the case. In the first of a two-part strand, Anita Rani examines how people with the condition attempt to reverse it by living on a radical liquid diet. It could potentially save their lives and the NHS billions of pounds. Here cameras follow five overweight patients as they move into an experimental diabetes reversal unit. There they live on a diet of just 800 calories a day for four weeks. They attempt to shed more than two stones, hopefully improve their lives, and no doubt offer a large dose of hope for viewers in a similar situation.

The Martin Lewis Money Show Live, Tuesday, ITV, 8pm

FIFA World Cup 2018 Preview
BBC1, 10.45pm
Gary Lineker is joined by Alan Shearer and Jermaine Jenas to look ahead to the tournament in Russia, assessing the chances of the leading contenders in the 21st staging of the finals. The chances of England, the only home nation to qualify this time around, are assessed, while the trio offer their thoughts on which nations have the greatest chance of glory, and which players are likely to shine. Germany were victorious four years ago in Brazil and are among the leading contenders.

THURSDAY
FIFA World Cup 2018
ITV, 3.45pm
Russia v Saudi Arabia (Kick-off 4.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the Group A match, the opening game of the tournament, which takes place at Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow. This is only Russia's third appearance in a World Cup this century after failing to qualify for the tournaments in 2006 and 2010. Their last effort in 2014 saw them fail to get out of the group stage, drawing two games and losing one, but as hosts they'll be expecting to go much further this time around. This afternoon will see them face Saudi Arabia for the first time since October 1993, when they lost 4-2 in Riyadh in a friendly match. Juan Antonio Pizzi's side are playing in only their fifth World Cup and will be looking to at least match their previous best finish, which saw them reach the last 16 at the 1994 tournament in the USA.

FRIDAY
The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special
Channel 4, 9pm
Richard Ayoade presides as Dennis Wise, Roman Kemp, Binky Felstead, Bez and Katie Price compete around the four zones, tackling various challenges to win crystals.

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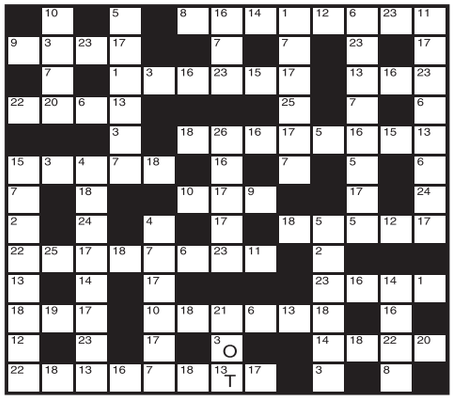
BRAIN GYM

No.483

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



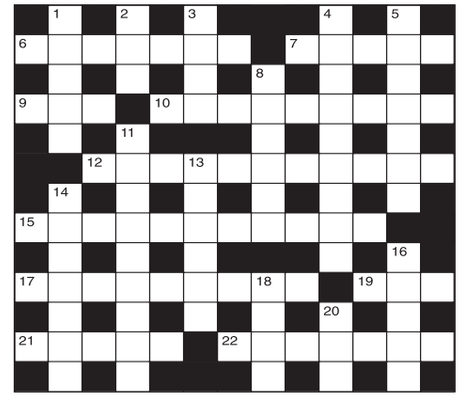
1	14
2	15
3 O	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13 T	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
E	I	P	R	F	K	N	Z	Y	M	S	O	Q
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
T	X	B	C	L	G	D	A	J	U	V	H	W

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Race movement begins under his orders (7)
7. Each one always yawns initially (5)
9. The last of the screen dramas (3)
10. Fruit used in mimicking on stage (9)
12. Shows off mannequin - racing type, perhaps (6,5)
15. Like a heavenly show? (4-7)
17. Cavil about being unpunctual, but waver (9)
19. Be prostrate as story? (3)
21. Started, for example, in prohibition (5)
22. Obligatory process in book production (7)

Down

1. Candidates do so before they can sit (5)
2. Vessel seen in colour, no doubt (3)
3. Retain part of the castle (4)
4. Subdue because of strength? (9)
5. He can't do without glasses (7)
8. Learner relieved - it's on hire (6)
11. Airs appal in estimation of value (9)
13. Plaything under which there could be a snake (6)
14. In which cooking may be done at sea? (7)
16. They have their pride, of course (5)
18. Stumble on excursion? (4)
20. Strange ring worn by theologian (3)

Across

6. Lawfully (7)
7. Polite (5)
9. Twisted (3)
10. Consequent (9)
12. Chance (11)
15. Despondent (11)
17. Impassiveness (9)
19. Pledge (3)
21. Brag (5)
22. Chief (7)

Down

1. Memorise (5)
2. Manner (3)
3. Merriment (4)
4. Spirit-maker (9)
5. Stateliness (7)
8. Figure (6)
11. Innumerable (9)
13. Nimble (6)
14. Manage (7)
16. Ascend (5)
18. Pour (4)
20. Append (3)

Sudoku

		7	9		4	1		
				8			2	
8		9	3		2			4
	2		7		6		9	
		3			5	8		
	4		2		8		7	
1		6	4		3			9
				6				
		2	5		9	3		

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	7	2	5	4	9	6	1	8
6	8	1	7	3	2	9	5	4
9	5	4	1	6	8	2	7	3
2	3	9	6	5	1	8	4	7
1	6	5	8	7	4	3	2	9
7	4	8	2	9	3	5	6	1
8	1	6	3	2	7	4	9	5
4	2	7	9	8	5	1	3	6
5	9	3	4	1	6	7	8	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Shooting stars; 8 Greenfly; 9 Till; 10 Corset; 12 Ordeal; 14 Ashore; 16 Keenly; 18 Miss; 20 Temerity; 22 Covered market. Down: 1 Cheroots; 2 Lovers; 3 Tiff; 4 Ugly look; 5 Stated; 6 Oral; 11 Twenties; 13 Axle-tree; 15 Ousted; 17 Errors; 19 Iron; 21 Memo.
QUICK - Across: 7 Conscientious; 8 Assessor; 9 Omen; 10 Bitter; 12 Nature; 14 Defect; 16 Enigma; 18 Shut; 20 Friendly; 22 Uninteresting. Down: 1 Conspire; 2 Assert; 3 Wits; 4 Entrance; 5 Fit out; 6 Lure; 11 Ratified; 13 Rambling; 15 Extent; 17 Ignite; 19 Hang; 21 Idea.

Quiz

1. On which river does Ipswich lie?
2. With which art form is Pina Bausch connected?
3. Which European capital is divided by the Attila line?
4. In biology, what do two gametes merge to form?
5. What is the biggest British vessel ever lost at sea?
6. To which English king was Hans Holbein the Younger court painter?
7. After which battle is the East Sussex town Battle named?
8. Who played James Bond in The World Is Not Enough?
9. Of what is the morel a type?
10. Which sea lies between Italy and Greece?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 P.W. Botha; 2 Asthma; 3 Iris; 4 Grouse; 5 Irene; 6 St. Trinian's; 7 George Fox; 8 1086; 9 Unification Church; 10 Aled Jones.

Niner: MERCHANTS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

624789 gives a religious person,
47335 gives a religious person,
35319 gives a religious text.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Well-presented three-bedroom home is spacious

Skitts Estate Agents are proud to offer this exceptional three-bed detached family home in Keyworth Close, Tipton, on sale for £224,950.

The property is located on the very popular Standeridge Park estate occupying a choice corner plot position on this cul-de-sac close.

A spokesperson for Skitts Estate Agents said: "No stone has been left un-turned by the current home owners in achieving this high standard of finish with features such as Karndean flooring, cream high gloss fully fitted kitchen and bespoke built-in wardrobes just to name a few."

This spacious residence briefly comprises a lounge, dining room, fully fitted kitchen, downstairs WC, three bedrooms, en-suite off the master bedroom, family bathroom, block paved driveway providing parking for several cars, garage/utility room and rear garden.

The kitchen is recently fitted with a good range of cream high gloss wall-mounted and base units and integrated appliances, while the lounge has a feature fireplace with a gas fire.

Upstairs, bedroom one is front facing and has a built-in wardrobe and door into the en-suite which has a shower cubicle, wash hand basin and low level WC. There are two further bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Outside, there is a well-maintained rear garden with patio area, grass lawn and an array of different shrubs.

The property is within a short distance of St Martins Church of England Primary School. Tipton Leisure Centre is also only a short walk away, as are local amenities.

The residence has transport links to A41, A4123, M6 and M5 which are all within a short drive from the property. Public travel links such as bus routes and Tipton or Dudley Port train stations are all located within a one-mile radius.

Skitts Estate Agents began in 1979 as a partnership and has proudly remained so since. A spokesman said: "This means the people who own the company, run the company on a daily basis and are responsible for all aspects of its growth, success and professionalism."

TIPTON £224,950

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Skitts Estate Agents
TEL: 0121 520 2255
EMAIL: greatbridge@skitts.net

KEY FEATURES

- Three-bed detached family home
- Popular cul-de-sac
- Good transport links
- Block paved driveway
- Fully fitted kitchen

Well-presented three-bed property near amenities

A beautifully presented three-bedroomed detached house, 38 Brookfield Way, Tipton, lies on a popular estate a short distance away from local schools, amenities and travel links.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £164,950.

To the front there is side access to the rear garden, a driveway to the front and a garage. The lounge has a gas fire. The kitchen/diner has a range of fitted wall and base units with work surfaces, an oven with a four-ring gas hob and an extractor fan over. This has under floor heating and French doors to the rear garden.

TIPTON £164,950

Upstairs, bedroom one has fitted over-bed wardrobes and a door into an en-suite having a shower cubicle, wash hand basin, low level WC and a heated towel rail. Bedroom two has a window to the front, while bedroom three overlooks the rear of the property.

The family bathroom is positioned to the front of this property. Its suite comprises a bath with a shower over, a wash hand basin, low level WC and a heated towel rail.

Outside, to the rear of this home is a garden which has been paved, making it easy to maintain.

To book that all important viewing, contact Skitts Estate Agents on 0121 520 2255.

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3 OLDBURY BARNFORD CRESCENT £154,950
2 The opportunity to acquire a traditional semi-detached house in need of improvement and modernisation. Central heating, double glazing, downstairs W.C., conservatory, established rear garden with detached garage. EPC Rating TBC
1

3 TIVIDALE WALFORD STREET £125,000
2 Deceptively spacious semi-detached house offering good sized family accommodation and being situated in a convenient residential location close to all local amenities. Central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating C
1

2 OLDBURY FARM ROAD £95,500
2 End of terrace property in need of improvement and modernisation offering an IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY. Double glazing and gas central heating (where specified). Low maintenance garden at rear. EPC Rating E
1

2 OLDBURY HERON ROAD £74,950
1 IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE OR INVESTMENT! Good sized first floor flat in need of general updating and decoration, in popular and convenient residential location. Warm air heating, communal gardens and parking. EPC Rating D.
1

4 OLDBURY MOAT ROAD £379,950
2 EARLY INSPECTION RECOMMENDED TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT. Modernised and improved spacious semi-detached house. Double glazing, gas central heating, gardens front and rear, detached double garage and secure parking to rear. EPC Rating E
1

5 OLDBURY TOWER ROAD £344,950
1 A spacious extended detached residence offering good sized family accommodation situated in a popular and convenient location. Ensuite shower to master bedroom, family bathroom and seperate toilet. Garage, off-road parking and established rear garden. EPC Rating C.
1

3 OLDBURY SUNNYBANK ROAD £299,950
1 VIEWING ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL!! Extended, modernised, well maintained and presented semi-detached house located in a quiet yet convenient location. Within walking distance of Hagley Road West and other local amenities. EPC Rating E
1

3 SUTTON COLDFIELD CHESTER GARDENS £259,950
1 An opportunity to acquire an end-town house situated within a highly sought after location within a modern housing development. Central heating, double glazing, garage, off-road parking, burglar alarm, front and rear gardens. EPC Rating D.
1

3 ROWLEY REGIS QUEENS DRIVE £209,950
2 We are pleased to offer this detached family residence, conservatory, central heating, double glazing, garage, parking and private established garden to rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating E.
1

3 TIVIDALE CITY ROAD £165,000
1 Deceptively spacious semi-detached house situated in a popular and convenient location. Central heating, double glazing, downstairs W.C., established rear garden, garage and parking to rear. EPC Rating D.
1

3 TIPTON TIVIDALE ROAD £144,950
1 Deceptively spacious semi-detached house located in Tividale Village in need of general updating and decoration. Double glazing, secondary double glazing (where specified), central heating, front and rear gardens, garage and parking. EPC Rating C
1

2 OLDBURY SUMMERTON ROAD £89,950
1 Ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity. Second floor flat in popular residential location. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC Rating C
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OLDBURY BIRMINGHAM STREET £6,000 per annum
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TIPTON
£129,950

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Still boasting many of its original features, this deceptively large home presents the opportunity for refurbishment ideal for both first-time buyers and investors alike.

The property overlooks Victoria Park and its beautiful ornamental lake. The accommodation briefly comprises of lounge, kitchen/diner, downstairs WC, two double bedrooms, shower room, detached garage and off-street parking. The residence is for sale with no upward chain.

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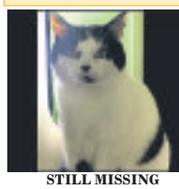

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Public Notices

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Church Street, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicle from proceeding via Church Street, Oldbury (Birmingham Street – Market Street). The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 17/06/18 effective from 16/06/18. A diversion route will be signed for traffic via Oldbury Ringway, Halesowen Street and vice-versa. Purpose – works to install new gas supplies by Balfour Beatty for Cadent Gas.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Pool Lane, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018, intends to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Pool Lane, Oldbury between Titford Road and Causeway Green Road. Traffic will be diverted via Titford Road, Ashes Road, Causeway Green Road and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 19/06/2018, effective from 19/06/18. Purpose – to carry out bridge inspection works by Centurion Traffic for Network Rail.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Patent Drive, Wednesbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018 has made an Order to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Patent Drive, Wednesbury between Moorcroft Drive and Hallens Drive/Western Way roundabout. Traffic will be diverted via Moorcroft Drive, Hallens Drive and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 10/06/2018, effective from 10/06/18. Purpose – works to replace a manhole cover by Amey for Severn Trent Water.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Planning
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

The Council are of the opinion that the proposal may affect the setting of a listed building.

DC/18/61831	Mr Nick Purewal The Intelligent Move	252 Duchess Parade High Street West Bromwich B70 7QG	Demolition of existing pub and creation of mixed-use development comprising of 39 No. apartments with associated ancillary use and retail at ground floor.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE (between 8.45a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.45a.m. to 5.00p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR JAN BRITTON, Chief Executive

Licensing Act 2003
James Bridge Service Station
299 Heath Road Darleston WS10 8LZ
Notice of application for a new premises licence

Notice is hereby given that MPK Garages Ltd have applied to Walsall Council for a new premises licence as follows:

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2) Late night refreshment 2300-0500 Monday to Sunday

Full details of the council website are at: https://go.walsall.gov.uk/current-licensing-applications. The application can be inspected at the Licensing Unit, Walsall Council, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1TP

Any person wishing to submit relevant representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above by: 22nd June 2018

It is an offence liable on conviction to an unlimited fine under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application.

Application submitted by Licensing Matters Ltd 01282 500322

10 Personals

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Ford's EcoSport gets update with plenty to appreciate

The design has been perked up with more colour options

By Carmel Stewart

Ford's EcoSport compact sports utility vehicle didn't get the rave reviews hoped for when it was first launched in 2014. Critics didn't like the interior materials, the design, the ride, the handling. In fact, bar the engines, there was very little they did like.

Roll up the extensively revamped mid-life version with an even more comprehensive engine line-up plus improved ride, handling and looks which have just about manged to hold on to the distinctive features, saving it from being subsumed by the one-look-fits-all-SUV school of design. There is also the addition of 4WD version which should boost its appeal.

The engine line-up still includes Ford's excellent multi-award winning 1.0litre EcoBoost engine strutting its amazing stuff across the Ford range. With 125ps at its disposal it'll travel from a standing start to 62mph in 12.7 seconds and on to a top speed of 111mph. Clearly not a world beater but more than enough for a practical family vehicle and, with an average 54.3mpg, it's not too hard on the wallet. A 100ps and 140ps unit are also available.

Ford's 1.5litre 100ps diesel engine combined with front-wheel drive is on the option list along with an all-new, six-speed manual gearbox. Joining the list is an all-new 1.5litre 125ps diesel EcoBlue engine which now adds Intelligent All Wheel Drive technology to the mix so no complaints there.

The design has been perked up with more colour options, a redesigned front end, new headlight and fog

There's a redsigned front end

light housings, LED daytime running lights, a new-look rear bumper and rear taillight design. There are also 12 exterior colours to choose from.

Thankfully, the designers have not relinquished the quirky side-hinged rear door – albeit opening the wrong way for a right-hand-drive vehicle. Many do not like it but, to me, it adds character which can be enhanced by selecting the new ST-Line trim and going for a contrasting roof colour.

Inside, the EcoSport is a comfortable place to be with soft touch surfaces, plenty of storage spaces, ergonomically designed seats, a high driving position, a user-friendly eight-inch touch screen and mercifully uncomplicated dash. Ford has added seven choices of ambient lighting so 'occupants can match the ambience to their mood'. Not sure how that will pan out on the M1 on a Friday evening, but nice try.

One slightly old-fashioned feature to smooth the furrowed brow - at least of anyone over 50 - is the inclusion of a CD player – a delight to those for whom streaming is a technological mystery. The height adjustable boot space is 334 litres, more than enough for a family shop or carefully selected holiday luggage.

The addition of an ST-Line trim, which includes SYNC 3, adding all the essential Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity gizmos, cruise control with adjustable speed limiter and a rear-view camera to save the unwary from those sneaky low walls and strategically placed boulders, is another plus for the new EcoSport.

Visual exterior ST-Line cues include unique bumpers, side skirts, black roof rails, 17-inch alloys, ST-Line badging, contrasting roof and colour co-ordinated door mirror housings. Inside, there is a leather-trimmed flat-bottomed steering wheel plus partial leather seats featuring red stitching, ST-Line branded scuff plates and stainless-steel sports pedals.

Prices start at £17,295 for the Zetec trim; £19,295 for the Titanium trim; and £20,095 for the ST-Line trim.

On the road, the revised EcoSport is comfortable and composed thanks to the optimised suspension and adjusted steering parameters. The ST-Line adds sports suspension which firms up the ride but not uncomfortably so. Ford's incredible 1.0litre EcoBoost engine eagerly responds to all demands made on it, well-matched as it is to the six-speed manual gearbox. An automatic transmission is also available.

So, all in all, nothing to complain about and plenty to enjoy.

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There is now more choice of engines

New petrol option for DS7 Crossback

Buyers in the market for a new DS 7 Crossback now have more choice when it comes to powertrains, thanks to the addition of a petrol engine to the SUV's range.

The French machine is now available with PSA's PureTech 225 turbocharged four-cylinder petrol engine, which currently sees action in the Peugeot 308. It's paired with an eight-speed automatic gearbox and develops 222bhp along with 300Nm of torque.

It'll take the DS 7 Crossback from 0-60mph in 8.1 seconds and on to a top speed of 141mph. As for efficiency, a number of technologies feature on the powertrain to help keep fuel economy high and emissions low.

These include the addition of a particulate filter and 'ECO' function on the gearbox that allows for free-wheeling between 12 and 80mph. The result is a claimed 48.7mpg on a combined cycle with CO2 emissions of 135g/km.

Available to order now, the PureTech 225 engine is offered on Prestige, Ultra Prestige and Performance Line trims of the DS 7 Crossback — with prices starting at £34,990.

There's another powertrain to come for the French SUV, too. It'll be a petrol-electric hybrid, sending 296bhp through all four wheels. Full information on this electrified set-up will be revealed in due course.

McLaren 720s adds to its trophy cabinet

More international approval for the 720S

The McLaren 720S has added to its trophy haul by winning the top Best of the Best category of the 2018 Red Dot Design Awards. It is the second time that a new McLaren has been awarded the international seal of outstanding design quality, following the recognition of the McLaren 570S Coupé in 2016.

It was singled out by the 40 international judges for its "innovative symbiosis of aesthetics and function". Criteria for the competition, which is one of the world's largest design contests, include innovation, functionality, formal quality, ergonomics and durability. Of the 6,300 products from 59 countries vying for the ultimate Red Dot title in 2018, just one per cent were chosen as worthy of the Best of the Best title.

Additionally, the McLaren 720S was named Car of the Year at the Vehicle Dynamics International Awards 2018. Since its unveiling at the 2017 International Geneva Motor Show, the McLaren has 720S received a worldwide critical-acclaim including numerous awards and five-star reviews from key opinion leaders, as well as globally-read lifestyle and motoring media.

"To have the McLaren 720S design recognised as the Best of the Best by the Red Dot Awards jury is a great honour for us," said Rob Melville, design director at McLaren Automotive. "McLaren is always brave in its approach and the 720S is the perfect expression of that innovative culture. The number of various design, product and engineering awards received by the car is a real testament to the quality of the team back in Woking and highlights the irresistible, all-round appeal of this incredible vehicle."

Bobber Black the ultimate incarnation of the range

By John Griffiths

Triumph are masters of the art of marrying retro-styling with thoroughly modern and sophisticated motorcycles.

Its wide Bonneville range has proved enduringly popular with riders, with variations such as a larger, 1,200cc engine option, a scrambler and café racer broadening its appeal.

Last year it launched another model based on the same mechanicals – the Bobber reflecting the stripped down machines of the post war years – and now there's the ultimate incarnation, the Bobber Black special edition.

The £11,650 machine is, as the name suggests, nearly all black including the twin exhausts. But don't think this is some sort of stealth machine – you will get noticed!

The 'bobber' style, also know as a bobtail or cut-down, refers to a type of bike stripped of all excess bodywork to reduce weight and increase performance.

Triumph's custom classic has the looks but don't be deceived: the 'carburetors', for example, conceal a modern fuel injection system and the rear suspension (the originals were normally 'hard tails') is hidden betneath the large and comfortably shaped single seat.

And our fathers and grandfathers could never have dreamed of a Bobber which comes with road and rain riding modes, torque assist clutch, switchable traction control and ABS to help keep you safe.

Plus there's a comprehensive rider information computer and a single-button cruise control.

At the heart of each Bobber model is Triumph's proven 1,200cc twin, albeit retuned to produce more of its power and torque at lower revs than that of the Bonneville T120.

It helps to reinforce the nostalgic nature of the Bobber, as its deep, lazy, growl is strangely reminiscent of a classic big single British bike of yesteryear. The riding position is classic, too – you're upright, with a straight back and the low (690mm) seat makes it managable for riders of all sizes. You can adjust the seat's position.

There's some vibration too, although not enough to cause discomfort – you tend to forget about it after a few miles.

The engine turns out 76bhp but its real ability comes from its 106Nm of torque. It pulls strongly from low revs and cruises effortlessly, without the need to be constantly swapping cogs. That's not difficult though, thanks to the slick six-speed box.

The Bobber is fairly low which may deter fans of knee-down cornering, but it's not that type of bike. Speed humps required some care, too.

At the heart of each Bobber model is Triumph's proven 1,200cc twin

Braking is reassuringly modern, too, with a twin-disc Brembo set up at the front and ABS.

The suspension has a pair of Showa forks at the front and a concealed KYB monoshock at the rear. The set-up on the test bike resulted in a firm ride, but a high degree of stability both in a straight line and around the twisty bits.

The Bobber Black is a distinctive machine – I can't think of anything like it – but you can go the whole hog with a range of themed accessories. Ape-hanger bars, LED indicators and Fox adjustable rear shocks are on the options list, along with customised luggage and heated grips.

The Bobber Black starts at £1,000 more than the standard Bobber, and apart from the colour scheme you get extras such as unique wheels, the uprated Brembo braking system, LED headlight and cruise control.

This sets the flagship edition apart from the already head-turning standard model, in a way which must appeal to fans of cruisers and custom bikes. Yet mechanically it's based on the proven and popular Bonneville range, with some of the most sophisticated riding technology available.

The riding position is classic – you're upright, with a straight back

British Motor Museum to host Old Ford Rally

The British Motor Museum will host the 10th Old Ford Rally, the biggest rally of old Fords in the UK, on Sunday, July 15.

Classic Ford fans will be able to see around 400 classic Fords including commercials, tractors and vehicles with a Ford engine built up to 1990 – showcasing the incredible range of vehicles produced by one of the world's biggest manufacturers.

Visitors will be able to see a huge range from Model T's to the cars of the pre-war austerity years plus agricultural vehicles, Thames and Ford commercial vehicles as well as the more luxurious post-war Zephyr, Zodiac and Granada.

There will also be the Mk1 and Mk2 Cortina, Anglia, and Escorts as well as the Capri from the 1960s – mid 1980s.

There will be an outdoor autojumble for those looking for vital parts to complete their restoration projects and an arena with live displays and commentary throughout the day. Live music on the Sunday will be performed from singing trio 'My Favourite Things'.

The Midlands Meccano Guild will also be featuring an exhibition of hand built models on display within the museum alongside some indoor traders selling models. Visitors will have full access to the museum, the Collections Centre, the Car S.O.S exhibition, as well as the show outside. Tom Caren, show manager at the museum said: "The Old Ford Rally is a great event and incredibly popular with fans of this legendary marque. Anyone who loves old Ford vehicles is guaranteed an enjoyable day out".

Classic Fords from the days of the Model T right through to the Cortinas from the 1980s will be on show

To find out more about the British Motor Museum visit the website at www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk or call 01926 641188.

Speedway stars parade in front of the many fans

Loyal – fans turn out in force to support riders

Ron and Lynn Chadbone and Keith Couldrey

Lloyd 'Sprouts' Elder at the open meeting in 1928

Spluttering start but still on track after 90 years

SPEEDWAY at Monmore Green has revved past the 90-year mark. The stadium first became home to speedway in May 1928 but got off to a spluttering start when one bike failed to start.

A crowd flocked to see the the first big clash between Englishman Ivor Creek and American Lloyd 'Sprouts' Elder but the engine on Elder's machine refused to fire.

However, not one to let the crowd down, Elder borrowed Creek's bike to put in some spectacular demonstration laps.

Wolverhampton got a taste for the roar of the engines and since then riders have clocked up countless laps of the Monmore track. And 90 years later fans turned out recently to mark 90 years of speedway in the city watching Wolves beat Poole 46-44.

The first time a Wolverhampton team actually raced around the track was in July 1929 against Warrington and Wolverhampton-born Tommy Deadman, who was employed by the Sunbeam Factory and was the biggest star at the time.

Merged

Then, after two mediocre seasons and poor crowds, they closed for 20 years.

It was revived again in 1951 but the Wasps, as they were then known, only won a miserable five meetings out of their 36 league encounters and finished at the bottom of the table.

Down the road, Cradley Heathens lost £6,000 during the 1953 season and were at risk of folding but instead merged with the Wasps. The team was led by Brian Shepherd before he retired and then Harry Bastable but he switched to Birmingham so he could ride at a higher level.

Racing stopped again at the stadium in 1954. There was another seven years of silence at Monmore until speedway was relaunched in 1961 with the new Wolves team in the second tier of British speedway. The team were Provincial League winners in 1963.

But that same year devastation hit when the stands caught fire, resulting in the track's closure and major renovation as a new stand was built.

In 1965, the Provincial League and the National League merged, putting Wolves into top-tier racing for the first time – and they have remained there ever since except for three years in the early 1980s.

SPORTING FEATURE

Report by Charlotte Callear

In 1965, the Provincial League and the National League merged, putting Wolves into top-tier racing for the first time

Many legends have raced around the track, from Ole Olsen to 'Sudden' Sam Ermolenko and Tai Woffinden.

Olsen arrived at Monmore Green at the start of 1970 and won the World Championship final in 1971 and 1975 but the team did not finish any higher than seventh in the league during his time at the club. That was in 1973.

In the same year, the club raced against Leicester and won the Midland Cup final.

Injuries

Olsen made 179 appearances and scored a total of 2,248 points. In 1986, Wolves signed American Ermolenko who went on to become the club's all-time leading scorer and won a world title in 1993. Chris Van Straaten took over the club and they climbed to third place in the British League in 1986.

Tragedy has also struck the venue with the deaths of riders such as Gary Peterson during the 1975 Midland Cup final and severe injuries suffered by Swedish rider Fredrik Lindgren who suffered head, neck and back injuries in August, 2011.

In 2001, they were sponsored for the first time by Parry's International who back them to this day.

The team have enjoyed their most successful period over recent years, becoming Elite League champions in 2002, 2009 and 2016.

All action – Monmore Green in Wolverhampton

Tennis scheme gives advantage to players

A REVOLUTIONARY organisation is bucking the trend in the West Midlands as national participation in sports declines.

Thanks to Local Tennis Leagues (LTL), adults have all standards have the chance to play friendly, competitive tennis on public courts.

Across Britain there are nearly 200 leagues open to men and women and last year more than 8,000 people took part, playing in excess of 30,000 matches.

In the West Midlands alone there are 11 leagues, including in Dudley, Lichfield & Burntwood and Wolverhampton. Local Tennis Leagues have spearheaded a sporting renaissance in local parks. It said what were often 'Cinderella courts' – left behind and forgotten – were now thriving again.

Leagues are open to adults over the age of 18, and a round – lasting eight weeks - costs £18.

To find out more or to join a Local Tennis League in the West Midlands visit www.localtennisleagues.com/westmidlands

Black Country home to judo headquarters

THE British Judo Association is moving its headquarters to the Black Country as talks continue over holding the sport at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

The organisation is moving up to 30 of its staff from Loughborough Technology Centre to Kudhail House, on the Birmingham Road, Walsall. It moves operations closer to the British Judo Centre of Excellence, at the University of Wolverhampton campus in Gorway Road in Walsall.

There are also plans for judo to be held at the centre for the Commonwealth Games. It could see a new arena built for the sport.

British Judo Association chief executive Andrew Scoular said: "It has long been our ambition to have all staff based in a centralised location. With the proposed move to Kudhail House nearing completion, it promises to be an exciting future for the association."

The marketing and communications was the first to move to the new office. The remainder of the team will come over the next few months.

Williams tops bill at new fight night venue

WOLVERHAMPTON'S Kyle Williams tops the bill on BCB Promotions' 'Emerging Stars' boxing show this weekend. He will fight defending champion Thomas Essomba over 10 rounds for the English bantamweight title.

Saturday's show will go ahead at Willows Banqueting Suite, Bath Street, Willenhall, after the original venue, Wolverhampton's Starworks Warehouse, was hit by a fire.

The show had then been moved to Wolverhampton University but has been moved to Willenhall and will now go ahead as planned.

The packed undercard features Antony Woolery, Lauren Johnson, Levi Ferguson, Sean Davis, Craig Morris, Damian Kiwior, Connor Parker, and Connor Lee.

Doors open at 6pm, with the first bell at 7. Tickets are £40, or £45 on the door. VIP ringside passes are £65.

To buy, contact any of the participating the boxers via Facebook or visit iboxingtickets.com.

Sport

On track for marking 90 years of speedway

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Drama on track with Brummies

BIRMINGHAM staged a dramatic late victory charge at Coventry on a great night of Perry Barr action to run out 53-37 winners.

Dashing Danyon Hume was at his brilliant best with an unbeaten haul to keep the Bees at bay in the best match of the season. Coventry made the better start and were six points up after three heats.

Danyon Hume and teenage sensation Leon Flint immediately launched a Brummies fightback with a 5-1 over the evergreen Jon Armstrong in the next.

And they pulled level when Tom Bacon made a smart move to pass Armstrong in Heat 6 to send the crowd wild. Flint was at it again in Heat 8 to join Cupitt for a maximum which handed Birmingham the lead for the first time at 26-22.

A vital 4-2 in the next race handed Brummies a six-point advantage.

Hume needed all his class to get the better of brilliant Coventry front man Connor Mountain to maintain the cushion with just four heats to go.

After a significant Parkinson-Blackburn win in Heat 12 kept the Bees at bay – and the 13th proved to be the turning point, the brilliant Hume held off Mountain by a whisker and with Bacon third Brummies were 10-points to the good.

Flint made light work of winning the penultimate race with Phillips separating him and Callum Walker in a brave ride and the scoreline was suddenly emphatic for the home side.

Hume completed his full house in the last race and with Bacon joining him for a Brummies 5-1 the job was duly done.

Boss wants Moz to stay – if he's fit, but on lower wage

DARREN MOORE wants to keep James Morrison at the Baggies – provided the midfielder can prove his fitness.

Morrison is out of contract at the end of this month, but spent the majority of last season on the sidelines with a nasty achilles injury. He is currently Albion's longest-serving player, having been at The Hawthorns for 11 seasons just like Chris Brunt, who joined the Baggies one week after he did in August 2007.

Moore is understood to be a big fan of the 32-year-old and believes he will be a huge asset if fit.

However, he will not sanction a new contract offer until Morrison has proven he is capable of returning to action. The midfielder was back in training towards the end of last season but was never fit enough to make the matchday squad.

His last contract, signed two years ago, was worth £60,000-a-week but he would be offered significantly less than that this time around.

Middlesbrough are reportedly monitoring the situation, claiming a reunion with Tony Pulis at Morrison's old club might be on the cards.

Ruthless Heathens romp home to win

Heathens seen in action

CRADLEY'S class of 2018 romped to the club's biggest win in almost four years with a 68-22 demolition of Buxton on Monday. The Motor Market Heathens were always major favourites for the clash with the visitors hit by injuries.

And the hosts were dominant from start to finish as they returned to the top of their National Trophy group.

Heathens got their night off to the perfect start, opening with four, 5-1 maximums. In fact, they only failed to claim a race winner in one single heat, when Buxton skipper Tom Woolley took the chequered flag in heat seven.

But even that was pushed hard as talented teen Drew Kemp chased down to the line. The youngster was punished with a 15-metre handicap after breaking the tapes in the initial staging, but soon worked his way into second place before pushing Woolley all the way.

That was the only time the 15-year-old was beaten from six rides as he continued to show why he is one of Britain's brightest future stars. The same can be said for Kyle Bickley who stormed to a 15-point maximum – his second unbeaten meeting in succession.

BATSMAN IS ZA MAN FOR FEUD

SMETHWICK gained ground on near-neighbours West Bromwich Dartmouth in the Birmingham League Premier Division with a four-wicket win over their rivals at Sandwell Park.

West Brom laboured to 185 for eight off their 55 overs, with Staffordshire captain Kadeer Ali top scoring on 48.

Mo Sheikh (3-30) and Gurinder Sing (3-55) impressed in tandem for Smethwick with the ball.

Former Dartmouth batsman Basit Zaman top scored for Smethwick in reply, but was stumped by Ian Stevenson one short of his half-century.

Smethwick skipper Vikram Sodhi also made 43 before Faisal Shahid and Sukhjit Singh saw them over the line to leave the victors one of three teams on 74 points, just 11 behind third-place Dartmouth.

Wolverhampton were left second-bottom after an agonising one-wicket defeat to Dorridge. They were dismissed for 104, thanks to some fearsome seam bowling from Warwickshire's Chris Wright, who took five wickets for just 15 runs. David Ball took the other five wickets.

But former Worcestershire and Surrey all-rounder Aneesh Kapil bagged a five-wicket haul to leave Dorridge on 97-9.

However, a final-wicket partnership of 11 secured a nailbiting win for Dorridge.

Walsall were beaten handily by six wickets at Berkswell after struggling to 154 all out in the first innings. Berkswell opener Daniel Chaudry made an unbeaten 77, and was backed up by Tom Milnes, who made 41 not out, after Robbie Byrne took two early wickets.

In Division One, Kidderminster moved up into second with a three-wicket win over Oswestry, who fell to 151 all out with left-armer Connor Smith taking 3-37. Ex-Worcestershire batsman Matt Pardoe opened up with 51 in reply before Simon Greenall and Barney Morgan – who also took three wickets – saw Kidder over the line.

Young players get their Kicks

The eight youngsters aged from 14 to 16 who will play in the national finals

PUPILS from a Smethwick secondary school will be representing Albion at a prestigious tournament in London next month.

Eight boys aged between 14 and 16 from Holly Lodge came through two tense penalty shoot-outs at The Hawthorns in the semi-final and final of the regional Premier League Kicks competition.

The tournament was hosted by the charity arm of the Baggies, The Albion Foundation, who work closely with the school.

Their triumph was made even more remarkable by the fact some of their opponents were three years older than them.

Goalkeeper George Owusu was named 'Player of the Tournament' for saving four penalties in total.

Holly Lodge's Key Stage 3 boys were defeated in the semi-finals but their Key Stage 4 boys will now be heading to London for the national finals.

Sgt Brian Steatham from Smethwick Town Neighbourhood Team was a referee at The Hawthorns.

"It was a fantastic tournament and the behaviour of the students was excellent," he said.

"We help support the Kicks project in Smethwick which is part of our community engagement to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour."

Duo second in battle of endurance

THE Double Two Racing team earned a second-place finish in the latest No Limits Endurance series at Donington Park.

Pete Wright and Martyn Siviter drafted in support rider and Cup 600 championship leader, Scott Stevens for round three of the 600 Class – but from the off things began to go wrong.

Wright, from Tividale, said: "Scott was to qualify first but realised he had left his armband back at the sprint rider pits, so grabbed a pushbike to fetch it. But qualifying was seconds from getting under way so I hurriedly got ready and out on to the track."

Wright posted a time good enough for first in class and 15th overall, but Scott then started suffering severe gearbox issues, which meant Wright and Blackheath's Siviter would have to do the full six hours between them.

Wright started and maintained first in class, extended by Siviter. A two-lap lead had opened up before major issues followed. The bike cut out three times trying to leave pit lane as the CO2 sensor kicking in due to a blocked air filter.

As Wright tried to make up time, a bike spilled oil in front of him and he was spat back upright by the bike. He then avoided crashing again before the red flag came out.

Still holding third place and with the track rideable again, Wright went out then Siviter dragged the team back up to second. Wright tried to catch first place but the gap was too big and Double Two Racing finished 60 seconds behind.

Ex-Baggie Potter to be Swans' boss

FORMER Baggie Graham Potter is set to become Swansea's sixth manager in four years after a compensation package for his services was finalised with Swedish club Ostersund.

The ex-fullback for West Browm, Blues and Stoke has been in charge of Ostersund since December 2010, but the 43-year-old will complete a move to Wales early next week.

Swansea's seven-season stay in the top tier came to an end last month. The club decided not to take up the option of extending Carlos Carvalhal's short-term contract after the Portuguese failed to save them from the drop.

★★★

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